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Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4178th meeting

Thursday, 27 July 2000, 11.35 a.m.

New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Mr. Stoffer

Agenda

The situation in Angola

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Angola (S/2000/678).

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00-55512 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Angola

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Angola (S/2000/678)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Angola, Brazil, Japan, Lesotho, Mozambique and Norway, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item of the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the Minister for Social Affairs of Angola, His Excellency Mr. Albino Malungo, and invite him to take a seat at the Council table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Moura (Brazil), Mr. Kobayashi (Japan), Mr. Mochochoko (Lesotho), Mr. Santos (Mozambique) and Mr. Kolby (Norway) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Gambari to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Angola, document S/2000/678.

I now call on the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, to whom the Council has extended an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure.

Mr. Gambari: The presence of the Secretary-General at this open meeting is a clear manifestation of his personal commitment, as well as the institutional commitment, to peace and the prospect of prosperity in Angola. He has instructed that we in the Secretariat must respond positively in addressing the several important issues in Angola which will be discussed today and in the future.

The Security Council's decision to hold an open meeting on Angola is a very timely one. The people of Angola have been deprived of peace for almost three decades. On 11 November 2000 Angola will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary of independence. But sadly, in the last twenty-five years, Angolans have not witnessed a single year of complete peace. On the contrary, for a quarter of a century they have seen destruction following destruction, countless deaths and the loss of young people, waste of talent and atrocity after atrocity.

The world has also seen several thousand refugees and hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons in Angola. We have also seen landmines take many lives and mutilate several others. Indeed, mining of the territory of Angola has taken on a cyclic character. For example, from 1994 to 1998 substantial progress was made in demining some of the most affected areas of the Angolan territory. With the resumption of war, however, landmines were again planted in some areas that had previously been demined and in some new areas, thus making it difficult for the population to resettle and use the land for farming, especially for food production.

Sadly, this is the overall picture of Angola that remains in our minds. Yet, if peace is given a real chance, Angola's endowment in mineral and human resources provides the country with a great potential to eradicate poverty in a relatively short period and promote the well-being of all Angolans.

After all, Angola is an important oil-exporting country. The country is also one of the world's richest

countries in diamonds, and, at one point, was one of the world's largest coffee producers. Hence, it is possible to make Angola a prosperous country again if there is the political will to take concrete actions to bring this about.

First, this requires an effort from all of us to help bring this protracted war to an end sooner rather than later. There is a need to stop the fighting, all the fighting, everywhere in Angola. In this regard, the primary responsibility lies with all Angolans. However, their efforts deserve appropriate support from the international community. The starting point is the need to convince ourselves that military force in itself is not sufficient to bring about durable peace in Angola. There is a need for an increased effort in the political, social and economic spheres in order for peace to become a permanent reality in the country. There is a need to adopt a spirit of reconciliation for all Angolans and to instil belief in a common and better future and destiny for all the people of Angola.

Therefore, we must welcome the statement made by President José Eduardo dos Santos on 19 June in Caxito, Bengo Province, in which he expressed the idea of pardoning all the members of UNITA, including perhaps Savimbi, if they decide to lay down their arms and commit themselves to peace, reconciliation and the rebuilding of Angola. This attitude will indeed contribute to the promotion of peace and reconciliation in the country.

As the Secretary-General indicated in his last report (S/2000/304) to the Council, the continuing fighting and its devastating effect on the population is deeply disturbing. Last week United Nations agencies reported that there had been an attack by a UNITA contingent of about 100 men 6 kilometres from the city of Huambo, in which a number of people were killed, while others, including children, were kidnapped. Furthermore, the conflict in Angola continues to impact negatively on neighbouring countries, particularly Namibia and Zambia.

These developments, which we are witnessing every day, reinforce the urgent need to put an end to this war. I sincerely trust that soon, with the participation of all the peace-loving people in Angola, we can take meaningful steps towards the settlement of this conflict. In this regard, again the statement made by President dos Santos in Caxito, reaffirming the commitment of his Government to the Lusaka Protocol, is indeed a good basis for the political settlement of the conflict in Angola.

Secondly, we must reaffirm the fact that UNITA bears the primary responsibility for the return to war in Angola. Its refusal to comply with key provisions of the Lusaka Protocol — in particular, its failure to demilitarize and to allow the State administration to be extended throughout the country — precipitated the resumption of war. UNITA is also to be blamed for the failure to implement the Bicesse Accords in 1991 and the Lusaka Protocol in 1994. It is this failure to live up to voluntarily signed peace agreements that is primarily responsible for the renewed violence and the continuation of the war in Angola.

These are some of the reasons that led the Security Council to apply sanctions against UNITA and to tighten further those sanctions. The reports from Angola on sanctions are that they are producing the desired results. They are limiting the possibilities of UNITA to procure weapons, thus making it difficult for the movement to rearm and resupply its forces. Sanctions have thus been an important instrument of pressure to force UNITA to commit itself to peace. The report by the Panel of Experts established by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1237 (1999) and the enormous work of the sanctions Committee, under the very able chairmanship of Ambassador Fowler of Canada, exposed the weaknesses of the implementation of measures imposed against UNITA and named the alleged sanctions violators. These are important reminders that, as members of the international community, States should act responsibly and avoid actions that would facilitate the continuation of war in Angola. I am confident that the recent appointment of the sanction monitoring committee and its work will contribute further to promoting peace in Angola by tightening the mechanisms for verifying the implementation of measures against UNITA.

The situation of internally displaced persons is illustrative of the disastrous consequences of the war in Angola. At the end of June the number of internally displaced persons was estimated at 2.5 million, approximately 20 per cent of the total population in Angola. Of these, just over a million were officially registered by a United Nations agency or non-governmental organization. The situation in Khaala, which I visited during my last mission to Angola, a situation that I understand is replicated in other places in the country, is truly appalling and should be

considered as an affront to all decent men and women everywhere.

While the primary responsibility for addressing the plight of internally displaced persons lies with the Government of Angola, and we are encouraged by the positive steps that the Government has been taking in this regard, the international community has a critical supporting role. In this regard, some of the work done by United Nations agencies and by some national and international non-governmental organizations in supporting internally displaced persons is truly encouraging. The recent bilateral agreement between the United States Government and the Government of Angola aimed at facilitating the resettlement and rehabilitation of communities in areas that were previously under UNITA control will certainly give a boost to some of the positive results achieved in this area.

However, the problem of Angolans in distress and in need as a direct consequence of the war is enormous. Therefore, the full support of the international community, as well as the increased participation of the private sector and of the civil society in the country, is required.

The civil society organizations in Angola have made important contributions to bring about peace and reconciliation in Angola. Recently they have taken a number of important initiatives in this regard. The march organized on 11 June 2000, which culminated in an open-air ecumenical service at which various political parties and civil society organizations participated marks an important milestone in the public pressure for peace. All Angolans were called upon to lay down their arms, abandon violence and live in harmony. It shows the commitment of civil society organizations to the promotion of peace. And they are doing this as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore, just a few days ago the Catholic Church organized in Luanda the Congress for Peace and Democracy. This event was attended by several members of Government, political parties and civil society organizations representing a good and broad cross-section of Angolan society. It marked one of the rare occasions on which the Government and opposition parties sat side by side with members of organizations representing different segments of Angolan society to discuss the common issue of peace. The event marked a moment of reflection in which Angolans reminded each other that the most important thing is what each one could do to bring peace to the country. The participants adopted a final communiqué in which, *inter alia*, they called for a ceasefire and the resumption of dialogue and the process of national reconciliation.

In Angola, the civil society organizations, particularly the Church, can also play a key role in promoting peace, reconciliation and reintegration, especially in areas formerly under the control of UNITA, where there are reports of serious human rights violations. They can also play an important role in the education of youths and children, thus complementing the actions of the Government in a society that has been too long torn by war.

On the economy, the Government of Angola has been making commendable efforts, despite the war, to improve its management and performance. As reported in the Secretary-General's report in document S/2000/304, the Government has signed the Staff Monitored Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Government is committed to greater transparency, especially in governmental financial transactions. This commitment needs to be backed with concrete actions. Hence it is encouraging that the Government has also introduced some important reforms in the diamond production sector, while it continues to reform the petroleum industry. In March this year the Government released some of the funds earmarked in previous years for the development of small and medium enterprises in agriculture and agro-industry.

Unfortunately, however, the efforts to rehabilitate the economy tend to be offset by the continuation of hostilities. Seventy per cent of the Angolan people continue to live below the poverty line, because financial resources normally available for the social sector are being diverted in part to finance the war. This has resulted in a deterioration in the quality of services in education, health and sanitation.

With respect to democratization, the Government of Angola has announced its intention to hold national elections towards the end of the year 2001, as I mentioned in my last oral briefing to the Council. It is comforting to note that the country's authorities are working on the various logistical, security and constitutional challenges to be met so that the elections can be credible, free and fair. During my last visit to

Angola, I reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to work closely with the Government and to assist in meeting some of the challenges that I indicated earlier.

Meanwhile, I am delighted to inform the members of the Council that the head of the United Nations Office In Angola (UNOA) has been selected and that his appointment will be communicated to the Council very soon — perhaps as soon as tomorrow. He is expected shortly to resume his duties in Angola and this will help to strengthen the growing cooperation between the United Nations and the Government of Angola. The mandate of UNOA, as defined by the Security Council resolution, is focused primarily on humanitarian issues and capacity-building in human rights. However, the new Head of UNOA and the entire United Nations system will continue to work closely with the Government, as requested, and other interested parties to seek ways to support the current efforts aimed at achieving peace in Angola in the context of the Lusaka Protocol.

Finally, I would like to state that it is my sincere hope that this open meeting will be an important turning point in the search for durable peace in Angola. The members of this Council, we in the Secretariat and the international community as a whole need to be even more creative and to redouble our efforts to help the people of Angola to find the peace which has eluded them for far too long. We can do no less.

The President: I now call on the Minister for Social Affairs of Angola.

Mr. Malungo (Angola): Let me begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on behalf of my Government, on your assumption of the presidency of this Council and for organizing this open debate on the Angolan situation. We are convinced that your wisdom and diplomatic experience will bring us to a successful conclusion.

May I also take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the efforts undertaken by Secretary-General Kofi Annan aimed at the rapid restoration of a long and lasting peace in Angola.

My Government is committed to working very closely with Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari, the Secretary-General's Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, and encourages him to intensify his engagement in this regard. The Government of Angola continues to be grateful for the substantial political support lent by this organ and the humanitarian assistance provided by United Nations agencies actively engaged in our country.

The armed conflict in Angola has taken slightly different forms over the past years, but the suffering of our people has remained a constant. The 1994 Lusaka Protocol, which should have led Angola to peace, was never implemented in its totality. That is because Jonas Savimbi rejected several provisions crucial to its implementation, namely, the obligation to demilitarize his forces and to permit the establishment of state administration in areas that UNITA occupied illegally.

In 1998, Savimbi once again undertook armed force to achieve power, just as he had done in 1992 following his defeat in the country's first national elections. This decision relit the flames of a war shorter in duration, but even greater in intensity as a result of the unprecedented rearming of UNITA forces that had taken place. It is a sad commentary that UNITA's rearming took place with the open support of a number of countries and leaders, including Africans.

A very real military force was threatening the existence of institutions of elected power and the very future of our democracy. Regrettably, not all voices condemned Jonas Savimbi's actions or took steps to pressure him to abandon his plans for war. The Angolan Government saw itself forced to adopt a series of political and military measures to contain UNITA. Happily, that objective was achieved. UNITA's conventional war capacity was destroyed and today constitutes no immediate threat to the Government.

Thanks to the measures taken by the Government, Angola today enjoys a climate of relative tranquillity in a large portion of the country. That situation bodes well for an improvement in economic and social development. However, we are well aware that we have not put a definitive end to war. Small pockets of UNITA resistance still exist to carry out terrorist activities.

A question frequently asked is: "What is the most appropriate way to resolve the internal conflict once and for all?" There has been no single answer, either within our own society or outside it. An adequate reply to this question requires, first, an attentive and honest understanding of the evolution of the Angolan political process.

For more than 10 years, we have been seeking a peaceful solution to our internal conflict. However, each of the various formulas for peace, devised with the cooperation and assistance of the international community, was systematically violated and trampled by the same person every time. Jonas Savimbi called for negotiations only when he found himself militarily disadvantaged and for the sole purpose of buying time to reconstitute his army and prepare it for renewed attempts to seize power by force of arms. That is the way it has always been in the past, and today we are again witnessing a manifestation of alleged gestures of good will.

The facts themselves are clear. Savimbi has never been truly interested in any negotiating process. He has used these occasions only to trick the less cautious and to further his attempts to consummate his personal ambition to achieve power by force. His lack of credibility and continued betting on the option of war are incompatible with the objectives of strengthening a democratic society in Angola.

The lasting solution to Angola's problem still lies in the complete implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. Measures that the Angolan authorities have adopted foresee the fulfilment of the Protocol's provisions that were not implemented voluntarily. More than 92 per cent of Angolan territory is now under the control of the legal authorities. More than 11,000 rebel soldiers have thrown down their arms and hundreds of others continue to do so each month. They are being reintegrated into society.

We urge the international community to continue to apply pressure through the strict observance of United Nations sanctions against those who reject the Lusaka Protocol in order to persuade them to turn away from the option of war and to join the forces of peace, reconciliation and national reconstruction. We are confident and hopeful regarding the restoration of peace in the near future, the consolidation of the democratic system and the development of the country's economic potential for the benefit of all Angolans. It is in this perspective that we plan to hold general elections in 2001 with the participation of all legal political entities.

The Security Council's actions, strengthened by the report of the sanctions Committee chaired by Ambassador Fowler and by increased regional solidarity in southern and central Africa, have dramatically raised the cost of doing business for Jonas Savimbi, as well as the potential cost to those who may be identified as UNITA collaborators. The eventual success of these concerted efforts will improve the standards of living and contribute to economic growth in my country.

The Government of Angola applauds the establishment of the Panel of Experts that will help guarantee the effective application of relevant Security council resolutions within the logic of "smart sanctions". In this context, we also want to praise from the outset the contribution to peace in Angola made by Ambassador Robert Fowler. We wish him every success in his next posting. He created conditions that will permit his successor to continue to play an important role in the work of the sanctions Committee.

The Angolan Government is encouraged by a number of positive developments whose origins can be traced to this Security Council. Additionally, events taking place in the international diamond industry, and specifically announcements by De Beers and the recently concluded World Diamond Congress in Antwerp, hold promise for increased self-regulation by an industry that has financially sustained destabilizing rebel elements and corrupt leaders in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

A week-long international peace conference, entitled "Pro Pace", organized by the Catholic Church, has just concluded in Luanda. Participation by the Angolan Government included six ministers and two deputy ministers. A personal message from Pope John Paul was read to the 220 participants, including members of the clergy, civil society and the Government. We hope that these grass-roots efforts by the Church and by Angolan citizens may have a positive impact on the crisis in our country.

While the Angolan Government is forced to contend with disruptive activities by small UNITA bands, it must also engage a range of additional responsibilities. For example, it must sustain progress towards milestones established by the staff-monitored programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to be eligible to participate in a poverty reduction and growth facility in the year 2001. And, importantly, it must make every effort to meet the country's daunting immediate humanitarian challenges.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) stated in its mid-term

review for Angola the week of 17 July that the humanitarian situation in Angola is "precarious" and that United Nations agencies have received only 40 per cent of their funding requirements for this year. OCHA said that an estimated two million people continued to rely on food aid and that as many as 2.7 million people may need some kind of humanitarian assistance in the months ahead — a requirement for assistance funds totalling nearly $260 million.

As of June, the breakdown of United Nations agency receipts by per cent of requested funds for work in Angola is as follows: the World Food Programme, 44 per cent; OCHA, 43.8 per cent; the United Nations Children's Fund, 27 per cent; the World Health Organization, 61 per cent; the Food and Agriculture Organization, 10.5 per cent; the United Nations Development Programme, 1.4 per cent; and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 9.6 per cent.

At the end of June, there were an estimated 2.5 million internally displaced persons in Angola; this number represents approximately 20 per cent of the total population. More than 217,500 people have been displaced in 14 provinces since the beginning of this year alone.

Access and security remain key factors in providing assistance to needy populations. Guerrilla activities carried out by UNITA rebels limit access to most areas in the extreme south and east of the country, and safe travel on roads is not yet possible outside major cities and some coastal areas. At present, more than 70 per cent of all humanitarian assistance must be delivered by air because of restricted surface transportation. The result is high delivery costs for humanitarian assistance.

In May, the World Food Programme announced that it faced a possible breakdown in the food pipeline beginning in late September unless new contributions were received. It already has reduced by 20 per cent the number of people receiving direct food aid assistance for the months of June and July. Additionally, a nationwide campaign to distribute agricultural inputs is due to start in September and October as part of the Government's efforts to promote agricultural self-sufficiency.

Meanwhile, health remains the most under-funded sector of the entire humanitarian programme. Hospitals and health posts are under-staffed and under-funded and lack basic equipment and medicine. Malaria, diarrhoea and tuberculosis remain prevalent throughout the country, and in many locations children have not been vaccinated against life-threatening diseases.

The Angolan Government is actively engaged in the support of humanitarian assistance and services. Through the national emergency assistance programme it has provided emergency assistance to more than 500,000 people since September 1999. In Phase I, $21 million have been spent to purchase goods for populations in areas where United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations have been unable to operate. Phase II of the programme will aim $13.7 million at agriculture self-sufficiency projects associated with a national resettlement plan.

The Government has subsidized $12 million worth of fuel for World Food Programme and International Committee of the Red Cross aircraft providing humanitarian assistance. The Government has covered $7.5 million in port and airport fees related to international donations, and it has participated in the preparation of the next United Nations consolidated appeal that will be presented to donors in August.

Before I conclude, I would also like to express the Government's sincere thanks for the dedicated efforts of the more than 100 national and international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies which remain actively engaged throughout the country, under the most challenging circumstances, in providing humanitarian relief to the suffering people of Angola. We appeal once again to the donor community to continue their partnership to sustain progress being made to improve the living conditions of all Angolans.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) *(spoke in French)*: First of all, I would like to very warmly thank your delegation, Madam President, for having organized this meeting and to particularly thank Under-Secretary-General Gambari for another of his extremely insightful briefings on the political and humanitarian situation in Angola.

This meeting of the Security Council is probably the last at which I will be taking part in an affair in which I have been intimately involved in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on sanctions against Angola.

Before commenting on the remarks of Minister Albino Malungo, as well as on the briefing by Under-

Secretary-General Gambari and the report of the Secretary-General of 12 July, I would like to take this opportunity to step back and try to put the situation in Angola into perspective.

When Canada became a member of the Security Council some 19 months ago, Angola was one of the priority items on the Council's agenda. The political and security situation was so negative, and the United Nations' reputation in the eyes of the Angolan Government was in such a miserable state that we were indeed getting ready to put an end to the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA), which was the fourth United Nations force to be deployed in Angola. UNITA, which was at the very heart of a major counter-attack, had such a strong position that they openly defied the United Nations; indeed, they had the audacity to shoot down two United Nations planes, killing 23 people. Militarily, UNITA was planning attacks at less than 50 kilometres distance from Luanda. The peace prospects based on the Lusaka Protocol, a peace in which the United Nations Member States had invested so much, were quite dim.

Despite numerous and onerous United Nations missions and years of Security Council-imposed sanctions against UNITA, the international community had not succeeded in making any contribution to the restoration of peace in Angola. UNITA exercised — and, to a lesser extent, still exercises — control over vast areas of the country, where they exploited diamonds, the sale of which provided them with abundant military supplies. Jonas Savimbi had made systematic use of the hard-won periods of peace between the Bicesse Agreements in 1991, the internationally recognized elections in 1992 and the Lusaka Protocol of 1994 in order to re-arm UNITA and to pursue his own military objectives, in violation of the very commitments into which he himself had entered.

Nonetheless, we jointly decided not to act upon this blatant non-compliance with the wishes of the Security Council. We also jointly acquiesced in letting the Angolan population suffer the consequences of the endless civil war. More specifically, for what must have seemed an eternity to the Angolan people, we made very little effort to ensure the effective implementation of the sanctions that the Council had imposed against UNITA.

(*spoke in English*)

It was in such dire circumstances, in which the Angolan people and many in the international community were questioning the utility of maintaining the immense effort expended since 1975 in the Security Council's endeavours to bring durable peace to Angola, that the Council took the decision to go back to basics. In order to stop the cycle of conflict, the key link in that cycle had to be broken. I am, of course, referring to the diamonds-for-arms link which had allowed UNITA to maintain its war effort with utter impunity.

Early in 1999, the Security Council took the unprecedented step of creating an independent Panel of Experts to collect specific information on compliance — and non-compliance — with the provisions of the sanctions regime that we had progressively put in place over six years. Due in large part to the outstanding work of the Panel of Experts and to the Council's firm and clear-eyed subsequent steps, especially the adoption of resolution 1295 (2000), this body can now say that, for the first time, sanctions against UNITA are having real impact, as I think the minister just indicated, and, perhaps as important, are being taken very seriously both inside and outside of Angola. The well established culture of impunity is thus at an end. Yet sanctions cannot become fully effective overnight, and UNITA still has access both to diamonds and to people who will sell arms in exchange for diamonds. Thus, hostilities continue.

There is a very direct link between UNITA's belligerence and non-adherence to its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol and the grave humanitarian situation in Angola. The Council, once again, must demand that UNITA and Jonas Savimbi honour the terms of Lusaka. We thus completely concur with the Secretary-General, and with the oft-repeated declarations of this Council, that the primary responsibility for the appalling humanitarian situation in Angola lies squarely with UNITA.

Given UNITA's utter refusal to abide by its commitments, the Government of Angola has had no option but to seek to defeat Savimbi militarily. We understand the Government's rationale, even while we regret that the enormous resources required to maintain such a campaign are not being devoted the pressing need to improve Angola's infrastructure to help alleviate the dire humanitarian situation in that country.

Turning to the here and now, Canada especially welcomes the designation of a head for the United Nations Office in Angola. This has taken a long time. It is a much overdue first step required to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations and to re-establish the Organization's credibility in the eyes of the Government of Angola.

We remain acutely concerned by the dire humanitarian situation in Angola, with nearly 2.6 million internally displaced persons and 3.7 million war-affected persons. We are especially concerned by the Secretary-General's information, set out in paragraph 25 of his report and just echoed by Mr. Malungo, about an impending food pipeline breakdown anticipated to occur late next month or in early September because of a lack of timely and significant contributions to the World Food Programme. In this context, we wish to call on the donor community to give serious and urgent attention to this issue.

The tenuous security situation prevailing throughout much of the central highlands and the border areas has compounded the plight of Angola's civilian population and has rendered the cost of humanitarian assistance — which must almost entirely be flown in — all but prohibitive. We would again strongly urge the Government of Angola to do everything in its power to enable ground access to urban centres in those areas, and we call on both the Government and UNITA to respect fully the safety and integrity of humanitarian convoys and workers. We must note, however, that, while the Government of Angola has not always provided the support to the humanitarian effort that we have deemed appropriate, UNITA's cooperation has been all but non-existent; UNITA has been offering only violence and death to those who wish only to bring succour to Angolans in all parts of the country.

Canada wishes to welcome the efforts of the new United Nations Development Programme resident coordinator to improve overall coordination of humanitarian assistance activities and to adopt an integrated approach to assisting internally displaced Angolans. We note that an action plan has been developed by the Government of Angola with the United Nations and with non-governmental organizations as a follow-up to the rapid needs assessment undertaken in April, and we urge the Government to give implementation of the plan its full and urgent attention. Canada would also like to underline the importance of improving the system for the registration of newly displaced persons as a key protection tool, and welcomes the development of draft minimum standards for resettlement.

Regarding human rights in Angola, we remain troubled by the current situation, and we urge the provision of additional resources to the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Office in Angola to allow it to expand its presence and operations. The Human Rights Division has done some outstanding work in promoting and protecting human rights in Angola under very difficult circumstances. We invite the Government of Angola to do everything in its power to facilitate investigations done on the ground by its staff, including with respect to the need for prior notification to travel outside Luanda. In this regard, we welcome the Angolan Government's efforts to develop regular procedures for redressing human rights abuses with the support of the international community and, again, regret the fact that no such procedures exist with respect to the pervasive human rights abuses we have every reason to believe, but cannot know, are occurring within the territory still controlled by UNITA.

Canada wishes particularly to reiterate its concern at serious and well documented allegations of extra-judicial killings in the border areas with Namibia and with Zambia, and in some newly taken areas in the interior. We strongly urge the Government of Angola to undertake an official investigation into those allegations and to punish the guilty parties should such abuses be substantiated. It is only in this way that the effective extension of State sovereignty into areas formerly occupied by UNITA can be accomplished in a climate of trust and reconciliation. We are encouraged in this regard by recent events organized by civil society and church organizations in Angola to publicize the need for peace, dialogue and reconciliation.

The last 19 months in Angola have known some very dark days, often suggesting the bleakest of futures for a lasting peace in Angola. Regrettably, for much of the population of Angola, those adjectives cannot yet be dropped from our vocabulary, and this in one of the world's most resource-rich countries. Fortunately, however, there is now more than a glimmer of hope on the political and security front, a glimmer that we in this Council must not squander.

I hope that the Security Council has learned the hard lessons of our Angolan experience over the past

seven years, and that the Council will apply them without its usual trepidation, in Angola and in the many other circumstances in which they now apply and will apply in the future. There is no point — no advantage to anybody — in enacting measures within the Council which the Council does not collectively intend to enforce. Politically expedient measures which are certain to remain dead letters are deeply destabilizing to fragile geopolitical situations and are only likely to exacerbate the damage being done to people, and of course to the reputation of this Organization.

Let us agree not to adopt measures that we do not intend to enforce with vigour and tenacity. Let us also agree that any measures ought to be enforceable, for even with the best will in the world the Council cannot demand compliance with measures that are insufficiently clear or precise, or are simply unenforceable. To do otherwise would be dishonest, destabilizing and destructive.

Keeping in mind the future and the well-being of civilians, Canada, and I personally, will remain committed to ensuring that a political solution becomes a viable option for the parties to this terrible and wasteful conflict in Angola.

The President: Ambassador Fowler will shortly be leaving New York to take up another diplomatic assignment. I wish, on behalf of the Council, to thank him for the dynamic approach he brought to the position of Chairman of the Committee dealing with sanctions against UNITA. That sanctions against UNITA are finally bearing fruit is largely due to the efforts of Ambassador Fowler and his Committee, which clearly demonstrated the linkage between the illegal exploitation of diamonds and the ability of UNITA to fund its activities. We wish Ambassador Fowler well in his future endeavours.

Mr. Cunningham (United States of America): Today I am speaking on behalf of the troika of observer States to the Lusaka Protocol: Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States.

President José Eduardo dos Santos recently delivered a major speech in Caxito, Bengo Province, that should be brought to the attention of the Council. In that address, President dos Santos said that the Lusaka Protocol remains valid, and he once again held out an olive branch to UNITA, saying, in effect, that Angola's tragic descent into chaos could be reversed if all agreed to carry out the fundamental tasks that this Council has stressed since 1994. These include the full extension of State administration and the comprehensive demilitarization and disarmament of UNITA and its full transformation into a political party.

The troika has never wavered in its commitment to the Lusaka Protocol, which, along with its predecessor, the Bicesse Accords, continues to offer the best framework for the restoration of peace and national reconciliation. We remind all concerned that the Lusaka Protocol remains our collective fundamental expectation. It is also important to safeguard the gains of the last five years, including the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation, the multi-party National Assembly and the integrated armed forces.

The Council's present level of engagement is through the United Nations Office in Angola, and we are pleased by the work done by Under-Secretary-General Gambari. We urge him to continue and intensify his productive engagement in this issue.

For the past five years both the troika and this Council have expressed the view that the responsibility for the breakdown of the Lusaka Protocol rests primarily with UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi. We have taken a number of steps that reflect this belief, including the passage of three sets of sanctions. The troika believes that these sanctions should be fully and unconditionally implemented. At this point the troika once again expresses its support for the work of the sanctions Committee, chaired by Ambassador Fowler, whom we sincerely thank, and that of the Panel of Experts, as a major contribution to achieving the wider goal of bringing peace to Angola. We look forward to the continued efforts of the follow-on mechanism authorized during the Canadian presidency to sustain the momentum towards addressing the deadly link between illegally mined diamonds and conflicts in Angola, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Although the Council has assigned responsibility for the ongoing tragedy in Angola, it has never wavered in its belief that there is no viable military solution to the present crisis. We urge the Government of Angola to ensure that all those who wish to lay down their arms will be welcomed. We also urge the Government to ensure that all those who genuinely wish to participate in the democratic political life of

the country are able to do so with full confidence in the protection of their constitution.

The troika encourages a dialogue between all sectors of Angolan society towards finding the means of bringing a just and lasting peace to Angola — searching for a means to end that country's cycle of violence. In this context, the troika welcomes the recent convening of the Congress for Peace and Democracy, attended by Government officials, political party representatives, civil society activists and religious leaders. The Congress's message of democracy, tolerance, non-violence, human rights, dialogue and reconciliation should be taken up enthusiastically by Angolans, and deserves the support of the international community.

A dialogue such as the one called for by the Congress for Peace and Democracy can succeed only if all concerned adhere to the principles of the Lusaka Protocol. The participation of Mr. Savimbi in such a dialogue can be considered only once Mr. Savimbi takes irreversible steps to implement fully the Lusaka Protocol. Mr. Savimbi's obligations to the people of Angola and the international community remain unchanged and non-negotiable. The troika issues an appeal to all armed UNITA elements to lay down their arms and participate in the civil life of the country. We note that what military force has always failed to achieve in Angola's tragic history can nonetheless be obtained through the provision of schools, clinics, economic opportunities and the democratic process.

Members of the troika call on the international donor community to expand its humanitarian assistance to the Angolan population and to intensify cooperation with the Government of Angola to overcome the consequences of the long-lasting conflict, with particular attention to the socio-economic rehabilitation of areas previously under UNITA control. The need for humanitarian assistance to Angola does not detract from the Government's responsibilities in this area.

Your country, Madam President, has skilfully used its time in the presidency to focus attention on the humanitarian dimension of the crises we face in this Council, and it is the profound suffering of the Angolan people that must continue to direct our actions. The level of that suffering has been frequently described to this Council, but we must never become indifferent to its devastating impact. For this reason, the fact that the Government of Angola has sent Minister Malungo to represent it at this meeting today is an important signal. We thank him for being here.

Minister Malungo has been an effective advocate of the international relief community, in good times as well as in times of crisis. He has helped us with difficult questions of humanitarian access, security of United Nations and associated personnel and the myriad challenges of conducting relief operations in his country. There remain numerous obstacles to effective relief operations, but we are satisfied that he and his Government will continue to engage us in good faith in resolving all problems.

Members of the troika call for continued investigation into the downing of United Nations aircraft over central Angola. We are also reminded of the necessity to urge continued efforts to determine the fate of the crews and passengers of Russian and Ukrainian commercial aeroplanes downed under suspicious circumstances over territory then controlled by UNITA, as well as the fate of other foreign nationals missing in Angola. Finally, we remember the tragic loss that continues to haunt the Council: the crash of the plane carrying the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Alioune Blondin Beye, and his companions. Although, unfortunately, we allowed the second anniversary of his death to pass without comment, we cherish the memory of Maître Beye and view a just and lasting peace in Angola as his best possible memorial.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): The representative of France will shortly be making a statement on behalf of the European Union, which my delegation naturally endorses, and I would thus just like to confine myself to two or three very brief points.

First, Madam President, I would like, through you, to thank Professor Gambari, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, for his very useful introduction to our debate today.

My delegation is concerned at the continuing appalling human rights situation in Angola and particularly the humanitarian crisis which is resulting from the conflict. We welcome the latest initiative by civil society of a peace conference, which was held in Angola from 18 to 21 July. As Professor Gambari said in his introduction, military force is not the way forward. Reconciliation and peaceful dialogue is the only way ahead for Angola.

My delegation also welcomes the imminent appointment of the new head of the United Nations Office in Angola. We hope that the Office will now be able to recruit the necessary staff to move quickly towards full strength and to fulfil its mandate.

Finally, I would like to conclude with a somewhat cryptic remark, and I hope that the members of the Council will understand why I cannot be more specific.

The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the British Government, Mr. Peter Hain, will be making an important statement to the British House of Commons today on UNITA's continuing sale of diamonds and on breaches of the arms embargo. My delegation will ensure that a copy of the *Hansard* record of this statement is circulated as soon as possible to all members of the sanctions Committee.

Mr. Ben Mustapha (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): Madam President, I should like to express our deep appreciation to you for convening this public meeting to consider the question of Angola. I should also like to thank Professor Gambari for his excellent report on the situation in Angola, and to welcome Mr. Albino Malungo.

Although a certain degree of stability has been noted in several regions of the country where the authority of the State has been restored, the political, security, economic and humanitarian situation prevailing in Angola continues to be a major source of concern.

As the Secretary-General indicates in his report, the absence of dialogue has continued to create an unstable political and military situation in Angola. While continuing to refuse to disarm its troops and to respect its commitments to the Lusaka Protocol, Mr. Savimbi's UNITA is continuing with its destabilizing activities, thereby causing an increase in the total number of refugees and displaced persons and heightening tensions with Namibia and Zambia.

In this connection, we welcome the fact that an agreement has been reached between Angola and Zambia to establish a Joint Verification Team to investigate charges of border violations, which should help to reduce tensions between the two countries.

The Angolan people have suffered greatly from this war, which has been going on for far too long. New initiatives by opposition parties, religious leaders and various representatives of civil society to bring about peace and national reconciliation in Angola are a reflection of the desire of Angolan society to put an end to the conflict, which has taken hostage not only the civilian population but also the entire future of the country and the subregion.

We welcome these initiatives as well as the efforts that have been made to promote a negotiated peace. We are gratified also at the renewed commitment of President dos Santos with respect to the Lusaka Protocol, which we believe continues to be the foundation of a political solution in Angola. We also welcome his readiness to forgive UNITA rebels who renounce war.

The report of the Secretary-General confirms the importance of a United Nations presence in Angola and the usefulness of the work done by the United Nations Office in Angola. The presence of the United Nations is likely to contribute significantly to promoting peace and to bringing about national reconciliation as well as respect for human rights and security in the region.

In this connection, we would like to welcome the fact that the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Office in Angola has intensified its efforts, in close cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to support programmes that approach human rights as an essential component of a lasting peace.

We also consider that the devising of a creative plan for the respect of basic rights, particularly as regards the setting up of an effective justice system, is of crucial importance at a time when the State is extending its administration to regions that have recently been taken back from UNITA.

The situation of children in general, and in particular that of child soldiers, is one of the most tragic aspects of the Angolan conflict. We would like to echo the appeal of the Secretary-General requesting the international community to take a coordinated and sustained approach throughout Angola in order to increase the level of protection for war-affected children. Particular attention should also be given to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers as well as to the special needs of the large number of children who are victims of mine injuries.

The Secretary-General in his report has emphasized the precarious nature of the humanitarian situation due to the increased number of people requiring food assistance. The climate of insecurity that prevails among various regions owing to the guerrilla activities of UNITA has considerably reduced the volume of that assistance as well as the access of humanitarian organizations to the affected populations.

We are likewise concerned by the number of displaced persons, which is estimated at 2.5 million, approximately 20 per cent of the total population of Angola. This situation requires that the international community take the necessary action to help the Angolan authorities in their efforts to resettle displaced persons in secure areas.

Despite its natural and human resources, Angola today has been reduced to poverty and destitution. According to the report of the Secretary-General, poverty has become endemic, with some 78 per cent of the rural population and 40 per cent of urban dwellers living below the poverty line. We hope that the return to stability in those areas now under the control of the Government will allow for a tangible amelioration of the economic and social situation and for an improved standard of living for the population.

It is important also that the takeover by the Government of the regions formerly occupied by UNITA should be accompanied by increased assistance by the international community. In this connection, we would like to express the hope that, as stated by the Secretary-General in his report, the donor community will respond as generously as possible to the 2000 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola.

My delegation finally would like to welcome the release of the five Russian crewmen who had been taken hostage in May 1999.

In conclusion, it is our hope that the Council will continue to follow closely the situation in Angola in order to speed up the advent of stability, security and economic recovery. In this connection, we would like to reiterate our appreciation and support for the work of the sanctions Committee, under the leadership of Ambassador Robert Fowler, who, through his outstanding professionalism and the actions he has undertaken, has made it possible to bring about a process aimed at cutting off the supply lines and distribution mechanisms of UNITA diamonds.

It is thanks to the Committee's able work that we now have effective sanctions that are reducing UNITA's capacity to obtain weapons to continue the war.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by welcoming the presence of the Angolan Minister among us today. I should like also to associate myself with the previous speakers who have thanked the Secretary-General for his report dated 12 July 2000 and Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa Ibrahim Gambari for his supplementary statement.

The convening of this new open debate on the situation in Angola is, in my delegation's opinion, a welcome initiative, for which I thank the delegation of Jamaica, and particularly you, Madam President.

Today's debate gives us an opportunity to note the great concern of the international community over the enduring conflict in Angola; the war in Angola has lasted too long. The debate also allows us to emphasize again that only a political solution can contribute to the restoration of lasting peace and security in Angola and the region, and that the United Nations has an essential part to play in this regard.

As pointed out in the Secretary-General's report, the ongoing conflict in Angola is a source of grave concern for the international community, for at least two reasons. The first is the dangerous humanitarian situation resulting from it. This situation is described poignantly in the Secretary-General's report. I recall it only to emphasize the need, on the one hand, to find lasting solutions to the problems of displaced persons, estimated at 2.5 million or 20 per cent of Angola's total population, and, on the other, to define policies to improve the living conditions of populations touched by the war.

In this connection, we welcome the improvement in the access of humanitarian organizations to populations at risk and the development by representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations of a plan of action with concrete measures concerning food security, health and nutrition, resettlement and demining, water supply and sewerage, security and education, particularly of women and children. In this context, we encourage the action taken by the United Nations Development Programme to help Angola achieve the fundamental objective of sustainable human

development. We also urge the international community to respond generously to the United Nations inter-agency appeal for Angola for 2000.

The prolongation of the conflict in Angola and the risk of its spillover into the neighbouring countries is the other reason for the international community's concern. In this regard, we deplore the attacks against Namibia and the deterioration of security along the border with Zambia.

Faced with this situation, Mali believes that only a political solution can contribute to the restoration of lasting peace and security in Angola. In that context, we welcome the fact that the Angolan authorities continue to regard the Lusaka Protocol as a legitimate basis for the peace process. We urge UNITA to show, in a convincing manner, its willingness to fulfil the obligations imposed on it by the Protocol and to work towards genuine national reconciliation.

We also consider that the Security Council must support and encourage efforts to promote dialogue between all the parties, dialogue which will lead to the lasting peace and national reconciliation that the Angolan people wholeheartedly call for after so many years of suffering. I wish to mention in particular the initiatives of civil society and the Angolan Church, which show the constructive commitment of these two energetic forces within the process of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Angola.

Mali considers it to be of the greatest importance that the international community lend its full support to the democratization process and encourage respect for human rights in Angola, which are the cornerstones of normalization of the country's daily life, and pursuit of an effective process of national reconciliation.

Mali also considers it essential to strengthen the effectiveness of the measures imposed by the Security Council against UNITA aimed at promoting a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Angola, particularly by reducing UNITA's capacity to pursue its goals militarily.

Finally, Mali attaches great importance to the United Nations presence in Angola. This presence can greatly contribute to promoting peace, national reconciliation, respect for human rights and security in the region. We therefore welcome the appointment of the head of the United Nations Office in Angola and we assure Ambassador Gambari of our complete support.

In concluding, I wish to reaffirm the commitment and solidarity of the people and Government of Mali with the people and Government of Angola in order to ensure that the peace process is worthy of Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, my master, friend and compatriot, who gave his life for the restoration of peace in Angola.

Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation, as a member of the troika of States observers of the implementation of the peace process in Angola, fully concurs with the statement made by the representative of the United States on its behalf, relating primarily to the need for implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, for support for national dialogue and reconciliation and for ensuring a democratic political process and protection of human rights.

The troika is unanimous in holding Savimbi responsible for the continuation of the conflict in Angola. Russia fully shares the view that by his actions the leader of UNITA has excluded himself from the political process, and that as long as he fails to take irreversible steps to implement the Lusaka Protocol he cannot hope to participate in the dialogue.

Like other members of the troika, Russia believes that the consistent implementation and enhancement of the effectiveness of the sanctions regime against UNITA is an important element of international efforts to end the conflict in Angola, and it supports the work of the Security Council Committee on sanctions against UNITA, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Fowler. Together with our partners in the troika, we would appeal to the international donor community to expand its support to Angola to overcome the aftermath of this long-lasting conflict and to bring about a life of peace, particularly in those territories which until quite recently were under UNITA's control.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): Let me take this opportunity to thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting on the situation in Angola. I would also like to recognize the presence of His Excellency Mr. Malungo, Minister for Social Assistance of the Republic of Angola, and thank him for a very important and informative statement. His presence at our meeting today is clear testimony to the

commitment of the Government of Angola to peace for the people of Angola and the region.

We thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his comprehensive report, which is before us today, and we commend him for his commitment to the cause of peace in Africa and in particular to the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Angola. In the same vein, let me also thank the Secretary-General's Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari, for introducing the report and for updating the Council on the latest developments regarding the situation in that country.

The report of the Secretary-General states that the absence of dialogue has continued to create an unstable political and military situation in the country, despite the efforts of the Government to consolidate its authority throughout the country. Therefore, the Angolan people, the Government, the churches and the civil society are engaged in debating this issue, with a view to bringing durable and lasting peace to Angola.

The report also draws our attention to the real problem that impedes the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Angola. This problem is UNITA and Mr. Savimbi, who bears the primary responsibility for the return to war in that country. UNITA has refused to comply with the basic provisions of the Lusaka Protocol, which demanded that it demilitarize its forces and allow the extension of State administration throughout the territory. My delegation welcomes the Government's reaffirmation of the validity of the Lusaka Protocol and supports the Government's position that it will negotiate with all political forces that are ready to abandon violence as a way of gaining power. In this regard, the international community, and in particular the Security Council, must send a clear and unambiguous message to UNITA and to Mr. Savimbi to stop the carnage and carry out its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol. We all are very aware of UNITA's intransigence, and we should therefore ensure that UNITA complies with the demands of the Security Council and of the rest of the international community.

The question of the violations of Security Council sanctions against UNITA, which has perpetuated the agony and suffering of the people of Angola, is of great concern to my delegation and, I believe, to all delegations in this Chamber. The report of the Panel of Experts on the violations of Security Council sanctions against UNITA is an unprecedented development in the history of the United Nations. It is the first of its kind to inform the Council and the international community as a whole about the magnitude of the violations of sanctions against UNITA and what could be done to make them effective.

However, the Panel could not complete its investigations due to the limited time it had at its disposal. It is against this background that the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a follow-up mechanism to carry out further investigations into the allegations of violations of sanctions by UNITA. We thank the Secretary-General for appointing a five-member team to serve on this mechanism, and it is our hope that the long-awaited team will begin its work as soon as possible, to enable the Council to take appropriate decisions.

In this respect, we welcome the bold measures that, at their meeting held this month in Antwerp, the World Federation of Diamond Bourses and the International Diamond Manufactures Association adopted with regard to illegally acquired diamonds from conflict zones — in particular from Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone. These measures, if implemented fully, will indeed be a big step in the right direction — that is, towards limiting or significantly reducing the capacity of rebel movements in Africa to wage wars against legitimate Governments. I cannot conclude this point without once again paying special tribute to the Chairman of the sanctions Committee, Ambassador Robert Fowler of Canada, for his courage, determination and commitment to help bring peace to Angola and Africa. I endorse fully what you, Madam President, said about Ambassador Fowler on behalf of the Security Council.

With regard to the humanitarian situation, my delegation is encouraged by the efforts of the Government of Angola to put in place national structures, logistics and funds with a view to addressing the plight of the war-affected populations and internally displaced persons. Of great concern to my delegation is the large number of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Estimates of the quantity range between 6 million and 7 million, and 79 different types of devices have been found in the country. We commend the work of the humanitarian agencies in assisting the people of Angola to cope with these calamities and urge the international community to provide funds bilaterally, or through the United Nations

Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola, to assist the Government and the people of Angola — a people who since independence has not enjoyed peace.

The effect of the war on the economy of Angola is enormous. The international community should support the efforts of the Government to achieve economic recovery, so as to meet the needs of all its people. We welcome the agreement reached between the Government and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and it is our hope that the programmes that are to be worked out will assist in the national economic and social development of the country. Similarly, we welcome the activities of the United Nations Development Programme in the area of poverty eradication and in dealing with the impact of HIV/AIDS.

Allow me to welcome the long-awaited appointment of the head of the United Nations Office in Angola. It is our hope that this appointment will help the Angolan people in their efforts to achieve peace, development and prosperity. We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the cooperation between the United Nations and the Government of Angola in their efforts to investigate the downing of the two United Nations aircraft in Angola on 26 December 1998 and 2 January 1999 in areas then controlled by UNITA. We would also appreciate from time to time being updated on the ongoing investigations into the airplane crash that killed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his report to the Council on Angola. We also thank Under-Secretary-General Gambari for his briefing.

We welcome the Minister for Social Assistance of Angola, Mr. Malungo, and thank him for his statement.

We also extend our appreciation to you, Madam President, for convening this open meeting.

The situation in Angola has been relatively stable of late. The Government and society of that country have pursued their efforts to achieve peace and stability. At the same time, the Government has also done a great deal of fruitful work on economic development, the protection of human rights and humanitarian assistance. Years of civil war have inflicted serious wounds on Angola and the country still has a long way to go in its efforts to achieve peace and development. According to the Secretary-General's report, 20 per cent of Angola's total population are now internally displaced persons. This shocking figure demonstrates that Angola still needs the international community's attention and help. We hope that all countries will respond in a timely and positive manner to the 2000 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola.

As all know, UNITA is primarily responsible for the situation in Angola. It deserves the international community's condemnation and sanctions. Through the tireless efforts of Ambassador Fowler, the Chairman of the Angola sanctions Committee, the United Nations sanctions against UNITA have been tightened and improved. We wish to express our appreciation for that. We especially appreciate Ambassador Fowler's efforts in this regard.

We note with satisfaction that, following the establishment of the Panel of Experts, the Security Council has created monitoring mechanisms to further tighten the sanctions against UNITA. My delegation supports the work of the monitoring mechanism and hopes that it will adhere to its mandate under the relevant Security Council resolution and submit its report to the Council as scheduled. At the same time, we strongly appeal to all parties to comply with the Security Council's resolution and to cease providing UNITA with weapons and any other form of support.

We have emphasized often and in various forums that sanctions against UNITA are not an end in themselves, but a means to create the necessary conditions for a definitive political settlement of the question of Angola. We hope that the international community will make concerted efforts, coordinate its action and, by tightening sanctions, compel UNITA to lay down its arms, cease all hostilities and embark on the path to national reconciliation as soon as possible.

The Chinese delegation has always supported the positive role of the United Nations in the Angolan peace process. We support the work of Under-Secretary-General Gambari, the Secretary-General's Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa. We appreciate his visit to Angola in May. We have also learned with satisfaction that the Secretary-General has appointed a Head of the United Nations Office In Angola (UNOA) and hope that this appointment will facilitate the Office's work.

Mr. Mohammad Kamal (Malaysia): My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his succinct yet comprehensive report on the situation in Angola. We would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Gambari, the Secretary-General's Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, for introducing the report and for his additional remarks.

We also wish to welcome the presence at this meeting of Mr. Albino Malungo, Minister for Social Assistance of the Republic of Angola, and to thank him for his statement.

My delegation is dismayed at the continuing fighting in Angola and the prolongation of the devastating 24-year-old civil war there, without prospects for an early resolution of the conflict. We continue to believe that, in spite of the recent successful military campaign against UNITA, there can be no military solution to the conflict. Unfortunately, the war persists because UNITA has made it hard for the Government to believe that it is a trustworthy negotiating partner. Yet, a lasting solution is most unlikely to be achieved without the participation of UNITA in the peace process. It is imperative, therefore, that there should be renewed efforts in the search for a political settlement.

The Council has repeatedly pronounced that UNITA bears the primary responsibility for the continuation of civil war in Angola, which has left more than 1 million dead, many more maimed and a quarter of the entire population displaced. UNITA's ability to continue its military campaign is due to its lucrative illegal diamond trade. It was for the purpose of removing UNITA's means to wage war that the Angola sanctions Committee was established under the energetic leadership of Ambassador Fowler of Canada. It is imperative that the sanctions Committee continue with its work with undiminished vigour, even with the imminent departure of its current dynamic Chairman, if the Council is to succeed in degrading UNITA's capacity to pursue its objectives through military means. As one of the Vice-Chairmen of that Committee, Malaysia wishes to take this opportunity to pay the highest tribute to Chairman Fowler, to whom the Council owes a deep debt of gratitude for his leadership of the Committee and his enormous contributions to its work.

We are deeply concerned at the precarious humanitarian situation in Angola. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicated in its mid-term review for Angola that an estimated 2 million people continue to rely on food aid and that as many as 2.75 million may need some kind of humanitarian assistance in the months ahead. Hospitals in the main towns are devoid of equipment and medicine. The health of children in particular has been hurt by the lack of food and health services. The situation was made worse by an outbreak of polio last year, which affected more than 1,000 children. Infant mortality rates in Angola are among the highest in the world. It is estimated that close to 1.5 million children live in a state of absolute poverty and that more than 100,000 have lost touch with their parents.

Meanwhile, little information is available on the condition of the population outside of Government-controlled areas. Clearly, the situation remains desperate. With an estimated 1.4 million landmines per person in the whole country and some 86,000 disabled landmine victims, the situation makes it impossible for the internally displaced persons to return to their homes and to till their fields. The most affected are those who fled their homes and farms to seek refuge and sustenance in urban areas. Almost as seriously affected are those who abandoned their homes during earlier conflicts, as well as the original residents of the urban areas. These shifts have changed the demography of the country from one that was predominantly rural-based to one in which around 60 per cent of the population now lives in overcrowded urban centres. As a result, there has been increasing physical and psychological pressures on these urban dwellers, who must scramble for the same meagre resources, much of which come from an equally overstretched international assistance community.

My delegation reiterates its concern at the lack of access by international humanitarian workers to populations that are at risk, especially in guerrilla-controlled areas, due to rebel activities in several provinces. The location and timing of guerrilla attacks, which often include looting, physical assaults and destruction of crops and homes, are unpredictable. In fact, almost all areas along the eastern and southern borders remain out of bounds to humanitarian agencies. With very limited road access, there is increased reliance on air transportation which, in turn, increases the delivery costs for humanitarian assistance.

Nevertheless, we are gratified to note that the extension of State administration in several provinces has given aid agencies access to thousands of people in need of help who were previously beyond reach.

We are also concerned at the plight of children caught in the conflict, many of whom are directly involved as combatants and many others who have been traumatized in other ways, such as through displacement, death of family members and separation from their families, and physical injuries.

My delegation is particularly alarmed at the disclosure made in May by the World Food Programme (WFP) that it might face a possible breakdown in the food pipeline from the end of September, unless new contributions were received. We note that, in an effort to minimize hardship during the lean months of September and October, WFP has reduced by 20 per cent the number of people receiving direct food aid during June and July. On the other hand, we would like to commend OCHA, in partnership with the Government of Angola, for its nationwide campaign to distribute agricultural inputs, due to start in September and October as part of the Government's efforts to promote agricultural self-sufficiency.

The problem of refugees and internally displaced persons, numbering several million as a result of the conflict in Angola, remains intractable. Even more disturbing is the fact that almost four million Angolans are affected by the war. We must, therefore, heed the recent appeal made by the High Commissioner for Refugees for generous international assistance and respond favourably to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola. We should also take into account what was said by the High Commissioner, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, regarding the difficulty in raising cash to aid displaced people within their own countries, compared to other refugee groups.

Mrs. Ogata's appeal for $8.4 million to assist some 300,000 people who have been forced to flee their homes in three provinces in Angola, where 1.5 million people have been displaced since 1998, deserves our fullest support. We therefore commend the United States and others for the pledges they recently made. Making a real difference for internally displaced persons will require a very substantial and sustained commitment of resources.

In conclusion, we wish to underscore the need to address Africa's conflicts in a comprehensive manner, given the linkages among many of the crises on that continent. We cannot fail to see the negative spillover effects of the civil war in Angola to the neighbouring countries, including, very recently, to Namibia, resulting in civilian loss of life. Most of these deaths have been blamed on UNITA.

The President: We have a number of speakers remaining on my list. In view of the lateness of the hour, and with the concurrence of the members of the Council, I intend to suspend the meeting now.

The meeting was suspended at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4178/Corr.1

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4178th meeting

Thursday, 27 July 2000, 11.35 a.m.
New York

Corrigendum

Page 11, first column, fifth paragraph

for Mr. Cunningham *read* Mr. Stoffer

00-59711 (E)

United Nations S/PV.4178 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4178th meeting

Thursday, 27 July 2000, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Mr. Stoffer

Agenda

The situation in Angola

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Angola (S/2000/678).

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00-55609 (E)

The meeting was resumed at 3.25 p.m.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): Madam President, let me begin by thanking you for scheduling this public meeting on the situation in Angola. We also thank Ambassador Gambari, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, for introducing the latest report of the Secretary-General and for his very useful and comprehensive additional remarks. We welcome also the presence of Mr. Malungo, Minister for Social Assistance of Angola, as well as his very informative and, I must say, encouraging statement.

The Security Council has addressed the situation in Angola at regular intervals since hostilities resumed in December 1998. While addressing all aspects of the situation, we nevertheless have devoted particular attention to ways and means of promoting the peace process.

We continue to support the validity of the Lusaka Protocol, as does the Government of Angola. As we have said earlier, it is the intransigence of UNITA and its insistence on pursuing a military campaign that has derailed the peace process and hindered the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. UNITA needs to be reminded that there is no military option for it.

We note with satisfaction that the sanctions imposed on UNITA in the area of arms, oil and diamonds have taken significant effect. We reiterate our full support for the strengthened United Nations sanctions regime, especially as concerns illegal diamonds. The recent World Diamond Congress expressed the support of the diamond industry for the efforts of the Security Council through the adoption of a resolution. Bangladesh strongly believes that UNITA will soon find out the futility of the military campaign that it is pursuing. We must not, however, relent.

At this point, I would like to pay tribute to the role played by Ambassador Fowler in this regard in his capacity as the Chairman of the Angola sanctions Committee. His determination and thoroughness have yielded results and need to be emulated in other areas as well.

The Government of Angola's military initiative continues to meet with success in its quest to extend its authority over areas under UNITA control. The conventional war capability of UNITA has been further reduced. As mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General of 12 July, the hostilities have had a negative impact on the law and order situation throughout the country. We learned in his last report that the military developments have exacerbated the humanitarian situation and affected the free movement of people in the country. People have been forced to leave their homes with almost no means of subsistence. Furthermore, help and assistance from the international community have not been able to reach the people in need.

We believe that these issues should be addressed in order to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. We also need to encourage the Government of Angola to continue to cooperate with the United Nations agencies already working in the field in addressing the humanitarian situation and in improving the situation of those people who are at risk. As was indicated in the report of the rapid assessment mission of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in March, urgent steps need to be taken so that the situation does not deteriorate to the point of crisis. We believe that we share the same view in the Council.

We are happy to note that the Government of Angola took the assessment seriously and, as mentioned in the present report of the Secretary-General, actively participated in drawing up an emergency plan of action. We fully support this approach of identifying the critical needs of the at-risk population and devising a strategy with major objectives. We support the focus of the plan on nutrition, sustenance for internally displaced persons before the planting season, water and sanitation programmes, and mother and child health-care programmes. We also support the ongoing response to the outbreak of disease and the vaccination campaign.

The magnitude of the situation is reflected in the statistic that the total number of internally displaced persons represents approximately 20 per cent of the population of Angola. However, we believe the measures contemplated will be useful.

We commend the Government of Angola and the United Nations agencies, as well as the non-governmental organizations, for their efforts in drawing up resettlement plans in accordance with certain minimum operational standards. It is also gratifying to note that some return movements of displaced persons have been noticed. We need to put in place conditions that will sustain and eventually increase these movements.

It need not be repeated that access to the civilian population in dire need of assistance is pivotal to any measurable success in containing the situation. We encourage the Government of Angola to do all it can to help facilitate this access. It is heartening to note that with new locations coming under its administration, humanitarian access has increased.

Finally, Bangladesh believes that the humanitarian efforts in Angola represent a part of the whole. We need to set our sights on the ultimate objective of achieving durable peace in Angola. As we said on an earlier occasion, the process is political. To our mind, there is a need to create a political space for an open dialogue with all, including UNITA. The civil society in Angola has started voicing its opinion in favour of cessation of hostilities and for a broad-based dialogue for peace and genuine national reconciliation.

Mr. Listre (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for the initiative of convening this debate. We believe that it is very timely for the Security Council to have an open meeting on the question of Angola in its entirety, that is, to consider the military, political and humanitarian aspects of the conflict. I thank Ambassador Gambari, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, for his report and for the excellent work he is doing. I would like also to welcome the Minister for Social Affairs of Angola, Mr. Albino Malungo.

The primary responsibility for the serious deterioration of the military and political situation in Angola rests with UNITA. There is no doubt that Jonas Savimbi systematically failed to comply with the obligations stemming from the Lusaka Protocol of 1994. He failed to rise to the challenge to live in peace and democracy. Having said that, in our view there is no viable long-term military solution to the situation in Angola. Almost 25 years of fratricidal struggle have borne out this statement. Institutional stability and sustained economic growth in Angola can be achieved only through broad-ranging, inclusive and candid political dialogue, with the participation of all sectors, particularly civil society.

In our view, the Lusaka Protocol, with the adjustments required, continues to provide an adequate basis for the durable resolution of the conflict. Within the context of bolstering democratic institutions, we note with satisfaction President Dos Santos' decision to hold general elections in 2001.

The establishment and effective operation of the United Nations Office in Angola is a step in the right direction and ensures the continued presence of our Organization in that country. With the consent of the Government of Angola, its structure should be strengthened gradually. We support a multidimensional United Nations presence in Angola, because it seems to us that this would be an important instrument in seeking effective means of restoring peace and consolidating the rule of law.

We believe that the sanctions regime imposed on UNITA is an instrument that is consistent with an approach based on a political solution, and not an exclusively military approach, to the conflict. The effectiveness of the sanctions regime is directly linked to the peace process. It is a key element on which the quest for a solution to the Angola conflict rests. In that regard, we share the view that sanctions imposed by the Security Council must not be punitive, but rather must foster the creation of conditions conducive to dialogue among the parties.

Furthermore, the effectiveness of the sanctions regimes is directly linked to the confidence of the Government of Angola in the United Nations. In this regard, Argentina wishes to underscore once again the outstanding job being done by Ambassador Robert Fowler of Canada as Chairman of the UNITA sanctions Committee. The panel report, contained in document S/2000/203, is a significant effort to clarify relevant issues, namely, how sanctions are being violated, who is violating them and what measures can be taken to make the sanctions a more effective instrument.

The issuance of the report had a significant impact, and we believe that it will continue to have positive effects. Not only has it mobilized the States mentioned in the report, but it has also mobilized the diamond industry, arms manufacturers, neighbouring countries and countries of the subregion. It has also raised the awareness, as none has in the past, of the international community as a whole.

The ongoing armed conflict has had a devastating effect on the civilian population. The Secretary-General's most recent report is very eloquent in this regard. As was pointed out in the debate, there are more than 2.5 million internally displaced persons, and it is estimated that 1 million people require humanitarian assistance. Approximately 3 million people are inaccessible to the humanitarian

organizations. We believe that one of the purposes of this debate must be to alert world public opinion, and particularly the donor countries, to the humanitarian situation in Angola. The international community has the moral duty not to abandon the Angolan people.

For more than 20 years the international community has been struggling to find a peaceful resolution to the Angolan conflict. Argentina can associate itself directly with these efforts, as it began to deploy military observers as early as 1989, with the establishment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, and it participated in mine-clearance work through the White Helmets. As a member of the Security Council and as the current coordinator of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, a forum of dialogue and cooperation that brings together three South American countries and 21 African countries, Argentina will do its utmost to help end the conflict in Angola.

We are convinced that there is no dispute that cannot be resolved peacefully and fairly if both parties are motivated by a genuine will to engage in dialogue and act reasonably and moderately. We believe that after so much bloodshed, both parties have an inescapable obligation to the Angolan people to find a definitive resolution of the conflict.

Mr. Kuchynski (Ukraine): At the outset, I would like to welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Albino Malunga, the Minister for Social Assistance of Angola.

Like my colleagues who spoke before, I too would like to thank you, Madam President, for convening this public meeting of the Security Council. The situation in Angola, despite its gravity and severity, has not been discussed in open format for quite a long time. This may create a misleading impression that the United Nations remains uncertain as to its exact role in the settlement of the Angolan conflict. We believe that any uncertainty of that kind must be dispelled. Since the day it became a member of the Security Council, Ukraine has been advocating a better-devised and more energetic international policy towards the conflict in Angola. We hope very much that today's meeting will contribute to this momentous task.

It is very important that the Security Council commitment to improving the effectiveness of the measures imposed against UNITA, and Canada's leadership in this endeavour, are producing really positive effects, weakening the rebel movement and curtailing its ability to wage war.

The efforts in this area are expected to continue with the same dynamism. In this respect, Ukraine welcomes the recent entry into operation of the monitoring mechanism established pursuant to resolution 1295 (2000). My Government is prepared to provide every support to the monitoring mechanism in discharging its mandate. We also commend the recent decision by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to establish a special committee to monitor the sanctions against UNITA.

At the same time, it has been repeatedly stated that these efforts will contribute to the establishment of lasting peace and stability in Angola only if linked to a wider peace process. My delegation believes that the Angolan people will benefit only if the United Nations takes a more assertive stance on the urgency of such a process.

The Secretary-General's report of 12 July confirms that although Government forces continue to make progress in reducing the conventional war capability of UNITA, guerrilla activities persist in many parts of the country, perpetuating the prevailing insecurity among the population.

Taking into account the primary responsibility of UNITA for the resumed fighting, Ukraine agrees with the importance attached by the Government of Angola to its military successes in conventional war against the rebel movement. However, the sad experience of the twentieth century proves that, in contrast to conventional warfare, guerrilla wars may last for long decades and that in most cases those wars are won with better results at the negotiating table.

The urgent need for a negotiated settlement of the conflict is further highlighted by the precarious humanitarian situation in Angola, which, according to many sources, continues to deteriorate. In this connection, my delegation subscribes entirely to the appeal to all parties to facilitate the delivery of emergency relief assistance to all those in need.

Certainly we do not underestimate the complexity of the objective of stopping the war in Angola. Ukraine understands the position of the Government of Angola that the current UNITA leader, Jonas Savimbi, can no

longer be considered a trusted counterpart in any eventual political negotiations.

In this respect, UNITA has to be told that it is in its interests to put forward a new, unblemished leader, in whom the Angolan Government can place its confidence and who will be in a position to guarantee compliance with any negotiated agreement. In our view, the United Nations could play a very concrete role in influencing internal changes within UNITA. Ukraine also strongly supports the view that the Lusaka Protocol remains the most viable basis for the restoration of peace in Angola. In this connection, we attach great importance to the recent statement by President José Eduardo dos Santos about the validity of the Lusaka Protocol.

Ukraine strongly supports and associates itself with the request in the statement made by the United States on behalf of the troika that intensified efforts be made to determine the fate of the crews and the passengers of Russian and Ukrainian commercial aeroplanes downed under suspicious circumstances over territory that was controlled by UNITA, as well as the fate of the other foreign nationals missing in Angola.

I cannot but use this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the recent release by UNITA of five Russian crewmen who had been taken hostage in May 1999.

In conclusion, I join previous speakers in commending the efforts of Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari to explore the prospects for peace in Angola. My delegation wishes him every success in his difficult but very important endeavour.

Mr. Kooijmans (Netherlands): The representative of France is to speak on behalf of the European Union. We fully endorse everything in his statement, and I will limit myself therefore to making the following remarks.

While we welcome the fact that the Government has reduced UNITA's conventional war capability, this development has not led to an improvement in the security situation. In the absence of dialogue, Savimbi has reverted to all-out guerrilla warfare, and since Government control tends to be limited to urban areas his forces are able to terrorize rural populations in many parts of Angola.

As a result, the humanitarian situation remains bleak. One in five Angolans is now displaced. Most of the displaced cannot return and remain dependent on outside assistance. Relief workers are being deliberately targeted by UNITA. This year alone the Netherlands has already supported relief activities with some $7 million. But there is more that the Angolan Government, for its part, could do as well. It should take steps to improve security in rural areas, allow relief workers full access to the population and promote demining and other activities aimed at returning the displaced.

What should now be possible, however, as a result of the consolidation of Government authority throughout the country, is for the Government to engage in efforts leading to a political settlement. Paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report seems to suggest as much. It is promising that Angolan civil society is nudging the Government in the direction of a meaningful dialogue, and we should encourage President dos Santos to welcome such developments. In this context, the moment has come for the United Nations Office in Angola to play an active role. We therefore welcome Professor Gambari's confirmation of the imminent appointment of the Head of that Office.

Sadly, the human rights situation all over Angola's territory remains as alarming as that described in the Secretary-General's previous report. We fully agree with the Secretary-General that respect for human rights and good governance should be part of any effort to bring the conflict to an end. Actions like those taken against journalists are incompatible with the efforts of the international community to assist the Government in pacifying the country and, through this, contribute to the well-being of the Angolan people.

There are signs that at long last the efforts of the international community to put pressure on UNITA are beginning to have the desired effect. Sanctions really seem to be biting, and it stands to reason that we should step up our efforts. Therefore, we eagerly await the first report of the second Panel of Experts tasked with monitoring implementation of the sanctions. Equally important are the developments within the diamond industry, where an awareness is growing of the unacceptability of "blood diamonds". We hope the proposals of the recent World Diamond Congress in

Antwerp will be implemented effectively as soon as possible.

At this point I should like to second the words of praise addressed once again by many around this table to Ambassador Fowler for his very important and highly innovative work for effective implementation of the sanctions against UNITA. I am sure that Ambassador Fowler would agree that this is perhaps also the appropriate moment for the Security Council to recognize the groundbreaking work that non-governmental organizations have done in this regard.

Finally, it is very good news that the Angolan Government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have agreed to a staff monitored programme. We see this as a first step towards the long overdue normalization of Angola's relationship with the IMF and other international donors. The Angolan Government should recognize that transparency and accountability are essential elements of further progress down this path. We urge the Government and the IMF to commit themselves to a successful completion of the programme.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Jamaica.

My delegation joins previous speakers in thanking Under-Secretary-General, Ibrahim Gambari, the Adviser to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Africa, for his clear and comprehensive briefing on the situation in Angola.

We also welcome Minister Malungo and thank him for the important statement he made on behalf of the Government of Angola.

Jamaica continues to be very concerned about the continuing war in Angola. Ambassador Gambari's briefing and the Secretary-General's report clearly remind us of the adverse effects that the years of fighting have had on all segments of Angolan society.

UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, has been given numerous opportunities to reach a political settlement to the conflict, yet his forces continue to perpetrate wanton violence on the people of Angola. Those who assist UNITA to continue the fighting are equally culpable for the perpetuation of the human tragedy in Angola. In this context, we wish to underline the tribute paid to Ambassador Robert Fowler for his leadership of the sanctions Committee against UNITA and to thank him for his efforts to bring peace to the people of Angola.

My delegation renews its call for the leaders of UNITA to abide by the key provisions of the Lusaka Protocol and to instruct their forces to lay down their weapons and allow state administration to be extended throughout the country. It is time for responsible leaders of UNITA to accept that a political solution is the only route towards securing an end to Angola's intractable and tragic civil war.

The re-emergence of civil society in Angola is an encouraging beginning for the return to normalcy. We are encouraged by reports that some members of UNITA have reacted positively to the initiative of Angolan church leaders to mediate a negotiated peace between UNITA and the Angolan Government. We are fully aware of past deceptions by UNITA's leadership. However, we believe that efforts aimed at achieving peace must be encouraged and nurtured by the international community.

My delegation continues to be deeply disturbed by the precarious humanitarian situation of the population. We note that, at the end of June, the number of internally displaced persons was estimated at 2.5 million, or some 20 per cent of the entire population of the country. This number, although representing a small decrease over the number for May, speaks to the sense of insecurity still existing in large sections of the country. The 25 years of conflict have had a serious negative effect on the youth in Angola, who continue to be killed, maimed, sexually abused, recruited as child soldiers and deprived of access to health care and education. We support the Secretary-General's proposals to include Child Protection Advisers as an integral part of the mission of the United Nations Office In Angola (UNOA).

We welcome the efforts of the Government and United Nations agencies to draft minimum operational standards for the resettlement of displaced persons into safe areas and also welcome the collaboration between the Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to implement a plan of action for food security, health and nutrition, mine action and other vital areas. Jamaica urges the donor community to respond generously to the next United Nations Consolidated Appeal that will be presented in August. The implementation of the action plan is

timely, as access to populations at risk increases as more regions come under government administration.

We are encouraged by indications that the Government is prepared to recognize the existence of human rights abuses and to develop regular procedures to address these. In this regard, the invitation, reported yesterday, of President Dos Santos to journalist associations and unions to participate in the drafting of a new press law is welcome news. This invitation by the Government marks the beginning of a debate on press freedom, the guarantee of which will go a long way towards ensuring that the necessary checks and balances are in place to safeguard human rights.

We must assist the fledgling civil society in promoting dialogue between the parties and thereby creating an energetic political structure in which political change is affected by the ballot box. We realize that this is an arduous task to reverse the mind-set created by over 25 years of war.

The United Nations, in collaboration with the Government of Angola, must increase its role in providing guidance for institution-building and on the practical implications of democratization. We therefore commend the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to provide support for the capacity-building of government institutions, such as was provided to the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration for the coordination of humanitarian assistance.

Another critical area which must be addressed is that of infrastructure redevelopment. We agree with the Secretary-General's observation in his report that there is an urgent need to begin to rebuild the destroyed physical and social infrastructures of Angola and to afford the people of Angola the opportunity to optimize the potential that that country's rich natural and human resources are capable of.

My delegation, fully supported the adoption of resolution 1294 (2000), by which the mandate of UNOA was extended. UNOA, which was established to liase with the political, military, police and other civilian authorities in Angola, has an important role to play in exploring capacity-building, humanitarian assistance and the promotion of human rights. We welcome the news that the Head of UNOA will be appointed shortly and are sure that this appointment will result in the strengthening of collaboration between UNOA, the Government and other parties in seeking ways to support the current efforts aimed at achieving sustainable peace in Angola.

Finally, we cannot forget the tragic loss of life of United Nations officials, including Mr. Blondin Beye. We therefore welcome the assistance of the Government in investigating the crashes of the two United Nations aircraft in regions recently recovered from rebel positions. In the same vein, we welcome the release by UNITA of the five Russian crewmen who were taken hostage in May 1999.

I now resume my functions as the President of the Council.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey join in this statement.

At the outset, I wish to welcome the Minister for Social Assistance of Angola and to thank him for the very interesting statement he made this morning.

I also wish to thank Under-Secretary-General Gambari for his briefing on the conflict in Angola, one of the longest conflicts experienced by Africa and in which progress on the road to peace has, unfortunately, been far too slow. The most recent report of the Secretary-General has been helpful in identifying some of the difficulties that will have to be overcome in order for a settlement to be achieved and for the sufferings of the Angolan people to be alleviated.

The primary responsibility for the Angolan conflict falls to UNITA, which has failed to respect the commitments it had undertaken to bring about a restoration of peace. The European Union condemns once again in the most solemn manner the military initiatives of UNITA and its leader, Jonas Savimbi, as well as the acts of guerrilla warfare in which his troops are engaged.

The European Union shares the Secretary-General's concern about the lack of significant efforts to achieve a political settlement to the conflict. As recalled in its Joint Position of 19 June, the European Union is ready to support, within the framework of its common foreign and security policy, any initiative likely to contribute to such a political solution on the

basis of the Lusaka Protocol and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. The European Union welcomes and encourages the commendable initiatives taken by the churches and more generally by civil society, as demonstrated most recently by the meeting in Luanda of the Congress for Peace this month.

The European Union intends to continue supporting the international community's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the measures and sanctions against UNITA. The European Union welcomes the recent establishment of a monitoring mechanism, by resolution 1295 (2000), and intends to fully support it. It calls upon all States to cooperate, and welcomes the fact that some, particularly among those cited in the report of the Panel of Experts published this spring, have made known their readiness to welcome United Nations representatives in charge of follow-up of sanctions against UNITA. The European Union encourages them to maintain this cooperative approach, which also has been shown in a number of cases by their decisions to break off all relations with UNITA. Moreover, the Union recalls that it is ready to provide assistance to African States, in particular the Southern African Development Community (SADC) States, to assist them in ensuring full implementation of the sanctions.

It is gratifying to note that the illicit trade in diamonds, through which UNITA finances its war effort, is now the subject of increased awareness, to which the tireless and very active efforts of Ambassador Fowler have contributed. The World Diamond Congress, which has just been held in Antwerp, provided an encouraging illustration of this awareness. We should observe that, for its part, the Security Council is now making an effort to identify the links between the exploitation of and illicit trafficking in raw materials and the continuation of conflicts. After Angola the Council has created groups of experts working on the situation in the Great Lakes region, as well as in Sierra Leone. The European Union will support these various efforts by tackling the roots of conflict. The proposal made during the G-8 Summit in Okinawa to create a permanent group of independent experts, under Security Council control and appointed by the Secretary-General, to finalize the modalities for banning such illicit trafficking, should be carefully studied and implemented.

The humanitarian situation in Angola today is disastrous. The resumption of the conflict on a vast scale has had destructive effects on populations and resulted in new movements of refugees and internally displaced persons. As is stated in the Secretary-General's report, it is estimated that today there are 2.5 million displaced persons in Angola — approximately 20 per cent of the population. We should emphasize the efforts made by the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support these refugees and displaced persons, who are in need of urgent support from the international community.

This drastic situation is exacerbated by the continuation of the conflict. The delivery of humanitarian assistance is running into difficulties linked to the absence of security on numerous key access roads. The European Union joins in the Secretary-General's appeal that all parties involved facilitate the delivery of emergency relief, which must be distributed without restrictions and with full security, in accordance with internationally recognized humanitarian principles.

For their part, the Angolan authorities should implement a social and economic policy for the benefit of the populations of the areas they have taken back from UNITA, a prerequisite for a genuine peace process. Moreover, it is imperative that the parties, and UNITA in particular, cease laying mines and ensure that such weapons are duly recorded, in such a way that they can be eliminated.

When the Council met yesterday to deal with the issue of children and armed conflict we were obliged to note that the situation in Angola is, from that point of view also, tragic. Generations of children have grown up during the conflict, and many have never known any other reality than conflict, whether because they have been soldiers or because they have been orphaned, maimed or displaced.

The European Union once again pays tribute to the efforts made by the United Nations in the service of peace; it has already paid a heavy price in human life in the Angola conflict. The Union hopes that light can be shed on the conditions in which two of the Organization's aeroplanes crashed at the end of 1998 and the beginning of 1999. The European Union welcomes the fact that the Angolan authorities have

been able to strengthen security and are in a position to assist the United Nations team to visit the sites to investigate.

The European Union believes that the United Nations has a role to play in assisting the Government of Angola, in particular in its efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and practices and to ensure respect for human rights, freedom of the media and the norms of the rule of law. As was rightly emphasized in the Secretary-General's report, respect for human rights and good governance are required to end the conflict. The European Union hails and encourages the efforts to this end made by the United Nations Office in Angola. We thank Ambassador Gambari for having kindly told us that perhaps as soon as tomorrow we will know the name of the future head of the United Nations Office in Angola.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kobayashi (Japan): I thank you, Madam President, for convening this open meeting on Angola, giving Japan an opportunity to present its views on this important subject. I wish to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General, as well as to his Special Adviser on Africa, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, for their comprehensive reports on the situation and for their tireless efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

The chief obstacle to ending the conflict in Angola is the continued guerrilla activity of UNITA's rebel forces under Jonas Savimbi. We are particularly concerned over reports of guerrilla activity near the Namibian and Zambian borders, which is destabilizing the situation in those countries. It is therefore incumbent upon the international community to closely follow the situation, lest Angola's civil war develop into a regional conflict. In this regard, we appreciate the efforts that Special Adviser Gambari made to strengthen the relations of trust between the United Nations and the Government of Angola during his visit in May.

Since 1993 the Security Council has imposed economic sanctions against Angola, and specifically UNITA. These include the prohibition of trade in arms, petroleum products, and diamonds; travel restrictions on persons associated with UNITA; and the freezing of UNITA's assets. Regrettably, however, as described in the report of the Angolan sanctions Committee, these sanctions have been blatantly violated by various countries and individuals, and thus rendered largely ineffective. Unless the sanctions regime is strengthened, an early settlement of the Angolan conflict cannot be expected. It is Japan's view, therefore, that rather than focusing on those countries or individuals that violate the sanctions, the Security Council should explore ways of preventing violations. From this viewpoint, Japan supports the establishment of a mechanism to monitor sanctions violations, or to improve or establish various technical systems to prevent such violations, as recommended by the sanctions Committee in its report.

In today's discussion we cannot overlook the dire facts and figures that reveal the magnitude of human suffering in Angola. Over the past 20 years, 3.7 million people, or more than one third of the population, have had to flee their homes. Among them are 1.5 million internally displaced persons. It is estimated that, just since January of this year, as many as 250,000 persons have been displaced.

In view of this deteriorating situation, we appreciate the efforts of the Government of Angola to address these problems, as seen in its launching of a national emergency assistance plan in 1999; we hope that the plan will be carried through. However, without international efforts to halt this grave crisis, the situation will surely get worse. Japan therefore welcomes the special appeal for emergency assistance to internally displaced persons in Angola issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) based on a request by the Government of Angola. In response to that appeal, Japan is now examining positively the way to make a concrete contribution to address this increasingly serious situation. We hope that the positive response of the international community to the appeal will contribute to ensuring the human security of those who have been displaced, and eventually to promoting capacity-building, a process which, in the long run, will contribute to the prevention of conflict in Angola.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Mozambique. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Santos (Mozambique): We would like to thank you, Madam President, for the initiative to convene this meeting to discuss the situation in

Angola. We thank the Secretary-General's Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, for his eloquent presentation of the report of the Secretary-General and for his dedication to the Angolan issue.

The continuing hostilities in Angola constitute a major setback for the people of that sisterly country, and indeed for all peace-loving nations. The resumption of war in Angola is a source of concern not only for my country but also for the rest of the southern African region, the African continent and the international community as a whole.

The refusal of UNITA to comply with the Lusaka Protocol, in particular its failure to demilitarize its forces and to allow State administration to be extended throughout the country, is the primary reason for the escalation of the conflict in Angola. This situation has had devastating effects on the population of Angola, in the social, economic and humanitarian fields.

As discussed in this Chamber yesterday, generations of children have been exposed throughout their entire lives to just one reality, that of war. Many of them are forced to bear arms and to participate in hostilities, while others have been and continue to be victimized.

Because of a lack of security in rural areas, a large number of people have been forced to abandon their lands, where they used to produce food and cash crops. As a result of that situation, a population of 2.5 million internally displaced persons, representing 20 per cent of the total population of Angola, is now concentrated in urban and semi-urban areas. This has reduced access to piped water, health care, education and other basic needs, drastically affecting the living standards of the population and efforts for poverty reduction.

The refusal by the UNITA of Jonas Savimbi to comply with the Lusaka Protocol has plunged the country into a serious humanitarian disaster. More than 1 million persons rely on food distribution to survive, and a total of 2.5 million are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. But humanitarian assistance cannot reach all those in need, owing to UNITA guerrilla activities in parts of the country.

The recent progress made by Government forces in recovering areas of the country previously under UNITA control has increased access to populations at risk. However, the extension of State administration to those areas has created an additional burden for the Government. There is an urgent need to provide the population currently under State administration, and all others in need, with basic needs and safe resettlement areas. We would like to commend the Government of Angola for taking the lead in preparing an emergency plan of action to address humanitarian needs in collaboration with several humanitarian agencies and the donor community.

In this regard, we welcome the presence here of Mr. Albino Malungo, Minister for Social Assistance of the Republic of Angola. We call on all Member States, United Nations agencies and the donor community to continue and strengthen their support to the people and the Government of Angola and to respond generously to the 2000 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola.

In spite of the efforts of the Angolan Government to address the serious macroeconomic instability and to reduce poverty, a major obstacle lies in the way of achieving the fundamental objective of sustainable human and economic development: the absence of peace. The continuing fighting and the absence of a meaningful chance of a political settlement constitute a serious concern. The people of Angola deserve a better fate, and we urge the international community not to desist from assisting the Angolans to find a solution to the prolonged conflict that has caused untold suffering among the war-fatigued people of that sisterly country.

We commend the reaffirmation by President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola of the validity of the Lusaka Protocol and of his willingness to forgive Mr. Savimbi and his supporters if they renounce war. We urge Mr. Savimbi and his supporters to cease hostilities and to honour their commitments under the Lusaka Protocol, creating the necessary conditions for broad-based dialogue for durable peace and national reconciliation

We also urge all Member States and the international community as a whole to comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions on Angola, with a view in particular to putting an end to the illicit trade in arms and the illicit exploitation of and trade in diamonds, which are responsible for fuelling the conflict in Angola. In this regard, we would like to commend the work of the Security Council Committee on sanctions against UNITA under the dynamic

leadership of Ambassador Fowler. We wish him well in his new posting.

The conflict in Angola impedes the attainment of sustainable development not only in that country but also in the whole southern African region. The leaders of the Southern African Development Community are fully aware that only the end of conflict in the region can give rise to a favourable climate to enable more investment and economic growth, leading ultimately to the balanced and sustainable development of all the countries of the region.

The Security Council must continue to discharge its primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security and help the people of Angola and the region to find a durable solution to the conflict.

We commend the Secretary-General's initiatives on Angola and, in particular, the recent visit to Angola of his Special Adviser on Africa. We encourage him to persevere in his endeavours as further talks with the Angolan authorities, members of political parties and civil society proceed.

It is our fervent hope that, as a result of this important meeting, adequate humanitarian assistance will be provided to alleviate the suffering of the Angolan people.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Brazil. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Moura (Brazil): I wish first of all to thank you, Madam President, for convening this important meeting. I should also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Gambari for his briefing this morning. Brazil welcomes the presence of Mr. Albino Malungu, Minister for Social Assistance of Angola. We also appreciated his statement this morning.

This meeting follows up on last month's briefing by Professor Gambari on his visit to Angola. At that time he underlined that one of the objectives of his mission was to consolidate the growing trust between the Government of Angola and the United Nations. After the war resumed in late 1998 the sense of frustration with the United Nations that was felt in Luanda was understandable. We in Brazil perceived that fact, and did our best to restore a good working relationship between Angola and the United Nations.

Having been the victims of a long war against a colonial regime and suffered the brunt of a cold-war-era conflict, the people of Angola are yearning for peace. Today the objective evidence gathered since the signing of the Bicesse Accords points to the undisputable responsibility of Jonas Savimbi's UNITA for the failure of a 10-year-long United Nations peacekeeping presence in Angola.

An almost continuous state of war has resulted in the destruction of much of Angola's infrastructure, the creation of huge deficits in education and health services and the condemnation of a large part of its population to untold suffering and the condition of being refugees in their own country.

The Angolan Government made strenuous efforts to implement the "Acordos de Paz" and the Lusaka Protocol. The refusal of UNITA to abide by its peace commitments forced the Angolan Government to uphold its own authority and to limit UNITA's capacity to wage conventional warfare.

The Security Council recognized UNITA's responsibility and decided to establish an increasingly complex sanctions regime. The persistence of UNITA's war-making capacity led this Council to create the Panel of Experts that was so skilfully coordinated by Ambassador Fowler. As a consequence, there is now a worldwide effort to control the illegal traffic in diamonds that fuels wars such those waged by Jonas Savimbi in Angola and Foday Sankoh in Sierra Leone. Unfortunately, however, these important milestones have not yet been translated into meaningful change for those millions of internally displaced Angolans.

The Angolan Government faces the extremely difficult challenge of providing for the basic needs of a growing mass of displaced people and of fighting against guerrilla warfare aimed at the civilian population. In this context, the international community must make a combined effort to strictly implement sanctions against UNITA and provide assistance to the Angolan people, and to do so working closely with the Government of Luanda.

With that in mind, the third Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), held in Maputo on 17 and 18 July, reviewed the situation in Angola and reaffirmed that the absence of peace in that country was a result of the lack of fulfilment of their commitments by Jonas Savimbi and his followers. The

Conference also expressed support and solidarity to the Government of Angola in its efforts to suppress armed subversion and re-establish peace under the terms of the Lusaka Protocol.

In Maputo the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil stated that the seven CPLP countries should work together to promote the implementation of United Nations sanctions against UNITA. He said that it was high time to send Jonas Savimbi a clear message about the will of the international community to ensure the end of the Angolan conflict, which he hopes will culminate in the holding of free and fair elections at the end of 2001.

In our view, the strategies needed to tackle humanitarian problems, such as those which afflict Angola, should focus on conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and post-conflict peace-building, and should take into account the multiple dimensions of conflicts.

In the case of Angola, the peacemaking effort embodied in the three United Nations Angola Verification Missions and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola did not succeed. As the Angolans took into their own hands the task of resolving the war situation, the United Nations established the United Nations Office in Angola, which has, *inter alia*, the role of coordinating humanitarian actions. They must be based on the principle of shared responsibility and joint efforts. The mandates of the humanitarian and development agencies involved can differ in nature, but they are intertwined, since their goal is the full enjoyment of basic human rights.

It is therefore essential that the United Nations, through its various organs, including this Council and the Economic and Social Council in their respective spheres of competence, cooperate with the Government of Angola with a view to producing synergy in the field of humanitarian assistance in that country. That also means supporting Angola's own humanitarian programmes.

Civil society in Angola is also organizing itself, as is the Roman Catholic Church. The task of diminishing suffering and preparing for reconstruction is so vast that everybody will have to do more. Organized groups will have to pool their efforts in order to assist local authorities and groups of concerned citizens in upholding the most basic human right — the right to life.

The huge needs of Angola are such that we should think beyond the much needed provision of immediate relief assistance and start to plan the architecture of post-conflict recovery and capacity-building institutions. Immediate relief-assistance actions are essential to address the consequences of situations in which people remain displaced or return under precarious conditions. However, a long-standing solution to the humanitarian situation in Angola depends on a political process that could ensure the transformation of UNITA from an armed opposition movement into a party committed to the establishment of democracy in Angola. The Security Council and the international community should keep that fact in mind while planning a course of action to deal with the situation.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Lesotho. I invite her to take a seat at the Council table and to make her statement.

Mr. Mochochoko (Lesotho): Madam President, let me begin by commending you for your leadership of the Council during the month of July. I welcome the opportunity to address the Council as it considers yet again the Secretary-General's report on Angola. We join previous delegations in welcoming Minister Malungo and in thanking Ambassador Gambari for his introduction of the Secretary-General's report.

We are all aware of the situation that has prevailed in Angola since 1998, when UNITA was discharged from the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation, followed by the return to conflict and the subsequent withdrawal of the United Nations peacekeepers from the country. Over the years, the international community and the Council have stood by as the people of Angola endured untold suffering and hardship, including serious human rights violations, the conscription of child soldiers, and the murder and maiming by landmines of civilians at the hands of Jonas Savimbi and UNITA. Current estimates put the death toll in Angola at close to 1 million. There are over 2 million internally displaced persons, and thousands of refugees have fled to neighbouring countries.

The single motivating factor that has caused Savimbi to continue the civil war in Angola and to refuse to heed the Council's numerous resolutions is greed for power and for the economic wealth of Angola. While the people of this richly endowed

country have suffered economically and otherwise over the years, Savimbi and UNITA have gained from the continuation of the conflict, which they have fuelled by exploiting Angola's natural resources.

One would have thus expected that following the Council's adoption of resolution 1295 (2000) in April and the introduction of tougher measures to restrict UNITA's access to international markets for illegal exports of diamonds and import of fuels and ammunition, the situation in Angola would have changed for the better. Unfortunately, the report before us today does not contain much evidence of a change for the better.

This calls for even more strenuous efforts by this Council and the international community to strengthen the monitoring mechanism for the implementation of resolution 1295 (2000). It was thus a matter of concern to witness some delays in the establishment of the monitoring mechanism envisaged in resolution 1295 (2000), as these delays assured Savimbi of his continued resource base. We accordingly applaud the establishment of this mechanism, the effect of which will be to further tighten the noose around Savimbi's neck, forcing him to return to dialogue, peace and reconciliation.

The people of Angola have been hungry for peace and stability for a long time, but despite their calls for the cessation of hostilities, and despite efforts by, among others, the Secretary-General's Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, Under-Secretary Ibrahim Gambari; the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim; and the Director of the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Ross Mountain, violence and insecurity continue to prevail in many parts of Angola, as a result of which the humanitarian situation has deteriorated. Reports of attacks on civilian vehicles, in particular on those of relief agencies, resulting in deaths, injuries and the destruction of property, have forced the World Food Programme and other agencies to abandon distribution of aid by land and to resort to airlifting all supplies, which is considerably more expensive.

In this regard, we note that the response to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal has so far been poor and that while contributions have been made for food, very little funding has been received. Unless the international community responds urgently and generously by making funds available to pay for the cost of airlifting supplies, it will not be possible to avoid the imminent human catastrophe in Angola.

While there is no doubt that displacement and the threat of landmines have kept farmers from producing crops, thus exacerbating famine and intensifying the humanitarian situation, other problems are structural in nature and thus need to be resolved through reforms and longer-term development programmes.

Now that the Government has regained control of large parts of the country, prospects for the farming community to revive the agricultural industry, particularly the once-vibrant coffee industry, have been enhanced. The Government of Angola thus needs to take the necessary steps to mobilize financial resources for the purchase of equipment and raw materials as well as for the rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage systems. Donor community support for revitalizing the coffee industry in Angola will no doubt be a vital catalyst for creating an economically sustainable income for thousands of families in Angola, thus bringing about much-needed change in this war-torn country.

It should be a source of concern that health conditions in Angola have dramatically deteriorated, with a number of preventable diseases, such as polio, bringing death and suffering to an ever-increasing number of people. Efforts by the World Health Organization (WHO) and De Beers to harness the further spread of the polio epidemic will not bear much fruit as long as war continues to force thousands of people to leave the hinterland for sanctuary in already overcrowded cities. Resettlement plans for thousands of displaced people should be put in place at the same time that the immunization campaign is intensified.

It should now be clear to all of us that for as long as the war in Angola continues, the needs of the Angolan people will continue to grow. Not only is the Angolan economic infrastructure in turmoil as a result of over 30 years of war, but the country has the highest number of landmines and landmine victims. Human rights abuses are rife, and so is poverty. We cannot but share the view expressed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ms. Carol Bellamy, that while crises in other parts of the world have received an immediate and generous response from both the public and the media, relatively little attention has been paid to a similar crisis in

Angola, one of the many in Africa, where, as the report shows, thousands of people continue to be displaced from their homes, tortured and killed on a daily basis.

We can thus do no more than reiterate appeals for international assistance to the Government of Angola to help it address the serious humanitarian and development crises facing that country and its people.

In conclusion, we wish to pay a well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Fowler for ably chairing the sanctions Committee and for his efforts in ensuring the effectiveness of sanctions against UNITA. While we are saddened by his departure, we wish him every success as he embarks on what will no doubt be another challenging journey in his career.

The President: I now give the floor to the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari.

Mr. Gambari: I wish first of all to thank you, Madam President, for having convened this very productive open meeting and for the skilful manner in which you have conducted the proceedings. I wish also to seize this opportunity to thank my brother, Minister Malungo, for his excellent statement, and I wish to express through him our appreciation to the Government of Angola for sending him to participate in this meeting. This is evidence of the importance that the Government of Angola attaches to the proceedings of this meeting.

May I also thank all members of the Council and all of the other delegations for their important contributions to these discussions. I wish to assure all present that the Secretariat will intensify its efforts to work with the Government and people of Angola in the search for durable peace and sustainable development.

The message we have heard from the discussions in this open meeting today is that the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, United Nations agencies and the international community must redouble their efforts, first, to tighten the sanctions against UNITA; secondly, to complement those of the Government of Angola to respond more fully to the needs of the large percentage of Angolans who are in distress and require urgent humanitarian assistance; and thirdly, to support civil society, the Government and all those who promote the political settlement of the conflict in Angola. The goal which we all share is to end all fighting everywhere in Angola sooner rather than later, and to ensure the success of the work of the United Nations Office in Angola under the leadership of the new head of the Office, who is expected shortly to take up his appointment in Luanda.

Meanwhile, may I, with your permission, Madam President, add a few words to what I said earlier with respect to the humanitarian situation and related matters in Angola, and the contributions being made specifically by some United Nations agencies.

First, in response to a request from the Government of Angola, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) decided in May 2000 to expand UNHCR's existing operation in Angola, which provides assistance to 13,000 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to include protection and humanitarian assistance to some 300,000 internally displaced persons and returnees, particularly in three provinces of Uige, Zaire and Luanda.

Because UNHCR is operational it can translate legal principles which protect the rights of internally displaced persons into concrete actions in these three provinces. UNHCR will also assist in meeting urgently needed humanitarian requirements such as health care, shelter, water, education, clothing and so on, while working to promote a degree of self-sufficiency among the beneficiary population.

However, the financial requirements for UNHCR for the rest of the year 2000 for Angola amount to $8.4 million, and approximately $12 million for the year 2001. Therefore, UNHCR has made an appeal to donors, as part of the recently launched United Nations Consolidated Appeal, for $154 million to address the needs of an estimated 2.7 million people. We urge the donor community to respond positively and very generously.

May I also say a word about security. In the last few weeks UNITA has made additional threats to humanitarian workers, and I believe this needs to be strongly condemned, not only by the Secretariat but by the Security Council.

Furthermore, UNDP and OCHA are working with the Government on a strategy to alleviate the situation of internally displaced persons. This needs the support of the international community. There is need, for example, to continue to support the Angolan people with food aid until March-April 2001. Support is

needed to provide seeds and tools for the next agricultural campaign. Support for the non-governmental organizations is also needed in the very important work of demining. As several delegations pointed out, this is a very critical issue. Also, the United Nations system is supporting the Government of Angola in its strategy for poverty reduction and alleviation.

I also am delighted to report that the Secretary-General has directed me to go on missions to Zambia and Namibia next week and the following week for consultations with the authorities there on the negative consequences of the spread of the war in Angola to these neighbouring countries. I hope that at some point I may be in a position to report back on my findings to the Council and to recommend ways in which we can respond to some of the issues.

Finally, I wish to convey, on behalf of the Secretary-General and on my own behalf, congratulations to Ambassador Fowler for the excellent work which he has done not only as the Permanent Representative of Canada but in particular for the truly path-breaking contribution he has made to the search for peace in Angola through his extraordinary leadership of the sanctions Committee on Angola. We wish him success in his new assignment in Rome, and he can be sure that some of us will look him up as soon as possible — not all at one time, but one after the other. Mr. Fowler can leave here fully convinced that he has made a difference to the work not only of the Security Council but of the United Nations as a whole. His valuable work on the issue of sanctions against UNITA has greatly helped to restore the credibility of the Security Council and of the United Nations as a whole.

I must confess that I personally have benefited from the good work he has done, because it has helped in many ways in my own efforts to restore the trust and confidence between the United Nations and the Government of Angola. I believe there are also other beneficiaries of his work — the people of Sierra Leone, who will shortly be relieved to note that illegal diamonds will now be difficult to export for sale to finance the war activities of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The Democratic Republic of the Congo will also be a beneficiary of the work of Ambassador Fowler in terms of monitoring and control of illegal exploitation of mineral and other natural resources in that country.

We all owe you a debt of gratitude, Mr. Fowler. Good luck in your new assignment.

The President: I thank Under-Secretary-General Gambari for his briefing today. I wish to express appreciation for his own efforts on behalf of the United Nations to bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict in Angola and to restore trust and confidence between the United Nations and the Government of Angola. We have noted from his statement that he will be paying visits to the region in the very near future, and we look forward to further briefings of the Council when he returns.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4179

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4179th meeting

Friday, 28 July 2000, 11.40 a.m.

New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Vamos-Goldman
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Malaysia	Mr. Mohammad Kamal
	Mali	Mr. Keita
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Russian Federation	Mr. Victorov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ayari
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Mr. Stoffer

Agenda

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2000/697).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-55856 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2000/697)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, document S/2000/697.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/743, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following documents: S/2000/594, letter dated 16 June 2000 from Georgia; and S/2000/629, 630 and 742, letters dated 26 June and 25 July 2000, respectively, from the Russian Federation.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/2000/743) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1311 (2000).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4180

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4180th meeting

Friday, 28 July 2000, 11.45 a.m.

New York

President:	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Malaysia	Mr. Mohammad Kamal
	Mali	Mr. Keita
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Tunisia	Mr. Ayari
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

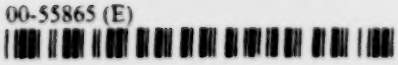
Agenda

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2000/738).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-55865 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2000/738)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand and Portugal in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Wensley (Australia), Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia), Mr. Kobayashi (Japan), Mr. Powles (New Zealand) and Mrs. Paiva (Portugal) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Annabi to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, document S/2000/738.

I give the floor to Mr. Annabi.

Mr. Annabi: As the President of the Council has just noted, members of the Council will have seen the Secretary-General's report dated 26 July, which provides a fairly detailed account of developments in East Timor over the past six months. I will therefore limit myself to highlighting some of the most important issues dealt with in the report.

The humanitarian emergency which faced the United Nations following the popular consultation in August last year has been largely overcome, but the reconstruction of the destroyed infrastructure of East Timor and the rebuilding of public services from scratch are huge tasks. Significant progress has been made, and the basic governance and administration structures are now in place. There remains, however, a lot of work to be done to reactivate the economy and strengthen the delivery of basic services while maintaining a stable security environment. The situation of the refugees still in West Timor also remains a matter of serious and increasing concern.

I will deal first with political developments. Over the past six months we have seen the extension of the sharing of political decision-making. The most significant steps in this regard have been the creation of a transitional Cabinet, half of whose members are Timorese heads of government departments, and the establishment of the National Council. The Cabinet enables the Timorese to assume government responsibilities for the first time. The National Council will broaden participation in the legislative consultation process by including new sectors of the population that were not represented directly in its predecessor, the National Consultative Council. It will include members from the rural districts, whose circumstances are quite different from those of the capital, Dili.

The immediate challenge is to ensure that this National Council is constituted in such a way that it is part of a process of consensus building, as open political activity and debate occur for the first time in East Timor. We should listen carefully, for example, to the youth and students who have been so active in the pro-independence movement and who are becoming increasingly vocal in their demands. As the Secretary-General has emphasized, there is a pressing need to strengthen tolerance for political bodies outside the broad umbrella of the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT), religious groups and ethnic minorities.

The CNRT, which is the largest and most representative coalition of political forces in East Timor, will hold its conference in August — next month. This will be a very important public policy forum and should significantly advance the debate on the key issues of the new constitution and the timetable for the holding of elections. A major political challenge in this period is to maintain unity of purpose among the Timorese while promoting the broadest possible political participation. There have been a number of political protest demonstrations this year, largely over employment and economic issues, but fortunately they have not caused any major security problems.

I turn now to the subject of relations with Indonesia. As described in the Secretary-General's report, relations with the Indonesian Government have advanced considerably. There are, however, a number of key outstanding issues. The central issue requiring urgent attention and action concerns the refugees in West Timor. The very unsatisfactory situation of the refugees in the camps in West Timor is reflected in the priorities that have been drawn up by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for guaranteeing the security of the refugees and its own humanitarian workers. These include the separation of former Indonesian soldiers, police and civil servants from the bulk of the refugees. The failure to guarantee the security situation in the refugee camps is illustrated by the recent withdrawal of UNHCR staff from the camps following attacks on UNHCR personnel. This clearly is not a context in which the refugees can freely decide whether they wish to return or be resettled elsewhere.

The Government of Indonesia should be encouraged to ensure that the influence of militias in the refugee camps and their activities in the border area are brought to an immediate end. The continued existence of the pro-integration militias and their evident capacity to operate along the border is fundamental to the central issue of border security. In this connection, I would like to mention that yesterday in Geneva the High Commissioner for Refugees highlighted these concerns about the situation of the refugees and of UNHCR's own staff in West Timor by issuing a background paper, which we would be happy to make available to interested Council members.

While security has been stable throughout the rest of the country, allowing an initial reduction in the strength of the peacekeeping force, military component of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), the past six months have seen periods of calm interrupted by violent incidents and incursions across the border. Very regrettably, these culminated earlier this week with the killing of a member of the New Zealand contingent of UNTAET in the Cova Lima district, which is located along the southern border with West Timor.

At the suggestion of Indonesian officials, a joint investigation involving UNTAET will begin on Monday.

In this context, on behalf of the Secretary-General I would like to extend our profound condolences to the family of the New Zealand soldier who was killed in this incident, and to express appreciation to all his colleagues who have been working with UNTAET on the ground.

I turn to the question of law and order. There has been a somewhat worrisome increase in thefts and violent crime, mainly in Dili, which has also seen some youth gang activity. Following a large gang fight in April, the decision was taken to make side arms available to the United Nations civilian police when necessary. The reduction of urban unemployment and of the drift from the countryside to the cities — which appear to be the main causes of this problem — remain a priority.

The evolution of the thinking of the East Timorese about the defence requirements of the future independent State has led to the commissioning of a study of future defence needs and their financial and practical implications for East Timor. The study, as Council members are aware, is being conducted by King's College, London. The team is currently completing its work in East Timor. While we await the final report of this team, we understand that three options will be proposed. All assume that the Falintil will be at the core of a new defence or security force, which will require significant international aid and training. Meanwhile, provision has been made for the basic needs of Falintil troops, many of whom have been allowed to go home on leave.

The Secretary-General observed in his report that East Timor's best assurance for a secure future lies in healthy relations with the countries in the region, particularly Indonesia. In this connection, I should mention that, at the invitation of the Government of Thailand, a delegation from East Timor, comprised of

Mr. Vieira de Mello, Mr. Xanana Gusmão and others, attended the annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which was held in Thailand on 24 and 25 July.

I turn briefly to the economic situation. Given the levels of destruction and disruption which East Timor suffered in the wake of the popular consultation last year, the reactivation of the economy is clearly a long-term task that will continue well after independence. The reconstruction of essential buildings is proceeding, but not as quickly as many would hope. We are encouraged, however, that it has been possible to reach agreement with the Timorese political leaders on a modest budget of $59 million for next year. This will require an additional subsidy from voluntary contributions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank donors for their support since the Tokyo Conference last year and during the recent Conference held in Lisbon last month.

In conclusion, I would like to say that, as we look back over the past six months, we can all feel satisfied about the progress that UNTAET has been able to achieve, even if it has not yet reached full capacity. It has contributed to the alleviation of the emergency brought about by the violence and destruction of last year; it has maintained a secure environment; it has established the foundations of an effective administration; and, above all, it has established a relationship of mutual respect and trust with the East Timorese. At the same time, the last six months have underscored the fact that the task that the United Nations and the international community have undertaken in East Timor is a truly daunting one, and that, as I stated at the beginning of this briefing, there is still a lot of work ahead of us.

The international community's commitment in East Timor will have to be sustained well beyond independence, which the East Timorese hope to reach by the end of next year. UNTAET will continue to do everything possible, with the Council's support, to assist the East Timorese to prepare for this challenge.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to thank you, Madam President, for scheduling this public meeting on the situation in East Timor. Let me begin by thanking Mr. Annabi for introducing the latest report of the Secretary-General and for his additional remarks.

The Secretary-General's report covers a number of significant developments in East Timor over the last six months. We take great pleasure in acknowledging once again the crucial role that the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) is playing in confronting the numerous challenges facing the territory of East Timor under the creditable leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello. We heard from him last month about the idea of broadening the participation in governance of the East Timorese leadership. We support this initiative, as we have always advocated Timorese ownership of the development efforts. We welcome, therefore, the creation of the National Council that replaces the National Consultative Council. This is a significant development on the path to democratic and representative governance.

While the vibrant nature of political expression is nothing unexpected for the people of East Timor, who are passing through turbulent times, we would like to sound a word of caution for the leaders and opinion-makers: they should take the utmost care not to allow intolerance of political expression and religious and ethnic sensitivities to take root. We say this because we notice certain tendencies in these directions. We would fully endorse UNTAET initiatives in the areas of civic and political education and establishment of the rule of law.

We also note with satisfaction that UNTAET's policy of information and communication is being strengthened, which we believe is crucial not only to enhance confidence in UNTAET activities, but also to inculcate in the East Timorese population respect for others' rights. The role of close consultation with interlocutors, with regard to tolerance of the views of other political groups, is indisputable. It would be a cruel irony if yesterday's minority failed to adopt a culture of tolerance towards today's minority and resorted to an attitude of intimidation.

As in our last meeting, we have heard about the continuing problem of militia activity. In the last few weeks UNTAET positions have been attacked, and very recently a peacekeeper was shot dead. We take this opportunity to express our sincere condolences to his bereaved family and salute his courage and commitment to a noble cause. We convey our condolences to the Government of New Zealand, the country from which this peacekeeper came. We are

very much concerned at this dangerous trend, which has the potential of undoing the good work done so far by UNTAET and the goodwill and cooperation that the Indonesian Government has shown. We recognize the determined efforts being made by the Indonesian Government in this regard. Clearly, there is need to do much more in order to terminate, once and for all, the continuing militia activity in the areas bordering East Timor. We are confident that the Indonesian Government will put a high priority on this aspect and take all necessary steps.

We are also very concerned at the recent spate of attacks on the property and personnel of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Their safety and security is uppermost in our mind, as we feel that they are playing a pivotal role in the whole process of ensuring a rapid return of the refugees to East Timor. It is incumbent on the Indonesian authorities to ensure the safety of all aid workers in West Timor and to secure the refugee camps against the incessant attacks of the armed elements. The recurrence of these incidents does not augur well for the stalled repatriation process. It is also not in the interest of the Government of Indonesia to allow its commitment to falter due to the criminal activities of the militia and their accomplices. The other issue that has not been attended to is that of payment of pensions to the civil servants. We invite the Indonesian authorities to take necessary steps soon to reach a solution. This would give a long awaited fillip to the repatriation of refugees.

We encourage the ongoing process of investigation of human rights violations that occurred in the wake of the referendum last year. We deeply appreciate the efforts being made by the office of the Indonesian Attorney-General. We hope that all concerned will endeavour not to allow any delay in this process.

Before concluding, let me touch upon the issue of transition to independence. We have said earlier that realistic benchmarks, and not an arbitrary time-frame, should be the guiding factor. Bangladesh believes that the process of transition will be slow and long. To our mind, haste should be avoided. Consultation with the national leadership, as well as regular feedback to the Security Council, would be our proposal in the setting of those benchmarks. We consider it very important that the people of East Timor, through their own leadership, perceive these benchmarks as milestones in their quest for national development that can rejuvenate, and not dampen, their spirits.

Mr. Harrison (United Kingdom): I thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report, and Mr. Annabi for his introductory remarks this morning. The report is a very useful one. It contains some good news and some frustrations. It also reports a tragedy.

To start with the good news, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) has made excellent progress in building the administration of East Timor. Most important, the Mission has taken real steps to involve the East Timorese people in the running of their territory. We praise Mr. Vieira de Mello for the establishment on 14 July of the National Council, and we congratulate UNTAET on the steps it has taken to reorganise itself, thus increasing the direct participation of the East Timorese. These steps are not only important in terms of accountability and legitimacy; they are also a crucial contribution to capacity-building for self-government in East Timor. They should be strengthened in the coming months.

Another welcome development was the East Timor donor conference held in Lisbon from 21 to 23 June. The United Kingdom is very encouraged by UNTAET's efforts to simplify its procedures. But we are in no position to be complacent. UNTAET and the donor community should step up their efforts to ensure the delivery of practical benefits to the East Timorese people. As the Secretary-General's report makes clear, the need is great. An essential first step in this regard would be the establishment by UNTAET and by the World Bank of measurable performance indicators; this would allow them to judge their progress in the coming months. UNTAET and the World Bank should also provide regular reports on what they have achieved.

The third piece of good news in the report was the work that is being done on East Timor's future defence and security needs and on their practical and financial implications. The United Kingdom is very pleased to have been able to provide funding for this valuable work. The final decision will be for the East Timorese people themselves, not for UNTAET or the international community. We encourage the East Timorese people to have the broadest possible debate on the options before them.

One of the key voices in that debate will be Falintil. As one of the main forces in East Timor's

independence movement, Falintil could reasonably have expected to have benefited in the same way as the military wings of successful independence movements elsewhere have benefited. But because the United Nations is the administering power, they have not so benefited. Neither has their role been given the recognition it deserves. Their forces remain cantoned, with nothing to do and with no role to play, 11 months after the ballot. The provision of $100,000 from the UNTAET budget to meet Falintil's immediate humanitarian needs is a welcome first step. We need to consider carefully what more the United Nations could do to address this problem. I would welcome the views of the Secretariat on this point.

The section of the report on the refugee situation makes for enormously frustrating reading. Why is it that so many refugees remain in camps in West Timor, 11 months after the ballot? Why is it that those camps remain largely under the control of the thuggish pro-integration militias? And why have we allowed their acts of violence and intimidation against personnel of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to reach the level they have, to the point that UNHCR was forced to postpone indefinitely the vital effort to register the refugees and to determine whether they wanted to return to East Timor or to be resettled elsewhere?

This situation is deplorable. It cannot be allowed to continue. The registration process must be completed quickly to enable the repatriation or resettlement of the remaining refugees before the next rainy season. With this in mind, UNHCR has set the Government of Indonesia a deadline of 31 October. By that date, they must restore law and order in and around the camps. They must arrest those who are attempting to sabotage the resettlement process for their own sinister reasons. We expect the Government of Indonesia to take determined, concrete and effective measures to meet that deadline, and to meet it in good time.

The continuing failure to resolve the issue of militias in West Timor has a destabilizing effect on East Timor itself. The Secretary-General's report shows a period of sporadic but continuing cross-border incursions. These culminated in the tragic murder on Monday this week of Private Leonard William Manning. We have all expressed our most profound sympathies to Private Manning's family and to the Government and the people of New Zealand. But sympathy is not enough. We must together show our determination that such an outrage will not happen again. We have a duty to Private Manning and to his colleagues, because they were sent to East Timor to implement the Security Council's resolution, resolution 1272 (1999).

First, we hope that the Secretary-General will conduct a thorough investigation of the incident and will report to the Council on his findings as soon as possible. Secondly, the United Kingdom expects the Government of Indonesia to redouble its efforts to cooperate with UNTAET on the problem of cross-border incursions. They must disarm and disband the militias. And they must hunt down those responsible for Private Manning's killing and for other militia activities, and bring them to justice.

My delegation believes that this report by the Secretary-General provides a good point at which the Council can take stock of the situation in East Timor. We have therefore distributed a draft presidential statement which, with the assistance of our colleagues, we hope the Council will adopt as soon as possible next week. The statement will need to reflect the good news, the frustrations and the tragedy of which I have spoken. But we hope that the statement will also look forward. We should not forget that Private Manning died serving a wider goal. That goal was the implementation of the will of the East Timorese people, so unequivocally expressed on 30 August last year. UNTAET has made good progress in implementing the result of the ballot during this year. We look forward to renewed efforts to drive forward this vital agenda in the coming months.

Mr. Listre (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish first of all to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report contained in document S/2000/738, and to thank Mr. Hédi Annabi for his statement this morning. I wish also to express the gratitude of my delegation for the excellent work being done in East Timor by the United Nations Transitional Administrator, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello. My congratulations go also to all personnel of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on the excellent job they are doing.

The United Nations has taken up a major challenge in undertaking the administration of East Timor and preparing it for independence. In that connection, the report of the Secretary-General

indicates the scale and excellent quality of the work that has been carried out thus far. But we know that a great deal remains to be done to lay the foundations for a politically stable and economically prosperous East Timor.

A key political factor is the training of local leaders so that they can guide the country's future once the United Nations leaves. Here we welcome the recent initiative to include four Timorese officials in the transitional cabinet, because this will help familiarize them with the administrative work that will be their sole responsibility in the future. We also see as very positive the transformation of the National Consultative Council into a more broadly representative National Council with greater authority.

In addition to the goal of increasing the direct participation and responsibility of the Timorese in the political arena, we believe that the people should be prepared for democratic elections. That is why we consider very timely the creation of the UNTAET programme entitled "The future of democracy in East Timor" whose objective it is to promote civic education, constitutional development, the rule of law and political education. In this context, we support efforts aimed at developing a culture of tolerance in East Timor.

From the economic perspective, international assistance has contributed to the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of the territory and to job creation. The main challenge for the future is to facilitate the creation of conditions to ensure that the Timorese economy can generate its own resources. We therefore believe it necessary to continue to make efforts to promote appropriate development of agriculture, which provides 80 per cent of the food for the population, and the oil industry — two sectors in the territory with good prospects.

We cannot fail to draw attention to the fact that, in contrast to the progress achieved in the political and economic areas, one serious problem has not been resolved satisfactorily, despite the passage of time. I refer to the suffering of the thousands of refugees who remain in West Timor. I should like to express the profound concern of my delegation about the seriousness of the current situation, particularly in certain areas where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has had to suspend important activities, such as the registration of refugees, because of intimidation by militias against UNHCR workers. My delegation trusts that the Indonesian authorities will continue to display a constructive approach in the framework of respect for the commitments undertaken, so as to resolve this serious problem.

We note the Secretary-General's intention to make a major reduction in the force if the situation remains stable in the eastern sector, and also to reduce significantly the number of military observers. We would like additional information from the Secretary-General as to whether the conditions in the field are such that a reduction would be truly appropriate, particularly given the recent events that led to the death of a peacekeeper from New Zealand, on which we await clarification. We take this opportunity to express our very sincere condolences to the family of Mr. William Manning and extend our sympathy to the Government and people of New Zealand.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): I thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and Mr. Annabi for the additional information that he has provided.

I wish to begin my statement by addressing the significant assessment, in paragraph 62 of the report, which falls under the heading, "Humanitarian affairs", that "the immediate emergency is considered over" and that a country-wide review of the humanitarian operation concluded that

> "humanitarian assistance had been delivered in a timely and effective manner."

If we recall the widespread destruction of last year and the humanitarian catastrophe that was unfolding in East Timor, we see that the present situation is testimony to what can be achieved to address such situations if the international community summons the political will to launch concerted efforts to address situations of potentially catastrophic proportions.

UNTAET can, indeed, look with satisfaction on what it has achieved so far, especially if judged by the daunting tasks it faced at deployment and is still facing. My delegation is, however, convinced that many of the successes resulted from the professional and often ingenious manner in which Mr. Vieira de Mello and his staff took on their challenges. I should like to refer to some of the methods adopted that will

play a major role in the eventual final success of the UNTAET mandate.

First, Mr. Vieira de Mello made the decision to remain at all times in close consultation with the East Timorese people in the decision-making process. This was mainly achieved through the establishment of the National Consultative Council, which has now become the National Council, to allow for the broader participation of the East Timorese and ensure that they become the major stakeholders in their own system of government and public administration.

Secondly, it was decided to establish a transitional Cabinet, with the East Timorese holding the portfolios of administration, infrastructure, economy and social affairs. This move will provide the East Timorese with excellent preparation for their future governmental responsibilities.

Thirdly, a continuous effort has been made to promote national reconciliation in East Timor.

My delegation also welcomes the ongoing efforts to normalize relations between East Timor and Indonesia: the value of mutual visits in strengthening bilateral relations cannot be over-emphasized. This process remains essential for future regional cooperation between the two countries.

With regard to the ongoing rebuilding and rehabilitation process in East Timor, my delegation wishes to stress the importance of the private sector's becoming involved in the creation of employment opportunities, because of the temporary nature of the successful quick-impact projects. We also strongly support the number of projects in progress geared towards human resource development, and my delegation looks forward to the reopening of the national university of East Timor in October.

My delegation is also concerned about the situation of Falintil, which is currently under cantonment, with no clear idea about its future. We therefore support any outcome of the studies under way which would put Falintil at the core of a future national security force.

My delegation welcomes the continuing repatriation of East Timorese refugees from West Timor and would like to reiterate its satisfaction at the smooth reintegration of returning refugees into their original communities. We are, however, concerned about the fate of the refugees who remain in the camps in West Timor, and hope that their repatriation to East Timor will take place as soon as possible. We deplore the ongoing acts of intimidation and violence by militias against refugees and relief workers. We trust that urgent measures will be taken to ensure their safety and that UNHCR will be allowed to continue its work without hindrance.

The number of border incidents decreased following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding tactical coordination in the border area between UNTAET and Indonesia. However, the tragic event of 24 July, when Private Manning was killed, stressed the urgent need for further effective steps to disarm and disband militia groups. In this connection, I wish to extend our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Government of New Zealand and the bereaved family.

My delegation notes the opposite situation that prevails in the eastern sector, which prompted the Secretary-General's intention to begin troop reduction. We support that intention and the proposed reduction of military observers.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Vieira de Mello and his staff for a job well done.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his report and is grateful for the briefing provided by the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi.

There has been some gratifying progress recently in East Timor's political life. After extensive consultations, the National Council was established, with the participation of the representatives of all the political parties and other parties. The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the East Timorese people have jointly formed a Cabinet to jointly decide and discuss State affairs. These measures have truly demonstrated the principle of emphasizing the Timorese people themselves. This can increase their self-confidence and their trust in the United Nations.

We believe that the East Timorese people, through greater participation in the work of the transitional period, which could thus be speeded up, and with the help of the international community, can achieve self-government and self-reliance at an early date.

In terms of economic rehabilitation, housing and infrastructure reconstruction, preservation of the social order and security, legislation, employment creation and training of the local people, UNTAET has achieved obvious progress. We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Vieira de Mello, and his staff for the huge amount of work they have done to achieve this progress. We support the efforts that UNTAET has made to promote the achievement of political democracy and reconciliation among the various parties. I wish to emphasize that in this process it is necessary always to respect local tradition and culture and the will and choices of the local people.

We are concerned about the situation of the refugees remaining in West Timor. We hope that UNTAET can continue to consult with the Government of Indonesia to settle this problem.

We welcome the maintenance of good, cooperative relations in all aspects between East Timor and the Government of Indonesia.

The general security situation in East Timor is stable. However, there have been some recent incidents of violence that are very disquieting. We condemn violent attacks against the United Nations peacekeepers and express our condolences to the family of the peacekeeper from New Zealand who was killed. We await the outcome of the investigation of this incident.

We trust that the Indonesian Government will continue to fulfil its commitments and take measures to ensure security in the East Timor border areas.

Mr. Granovsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his second report on the activity of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and to Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Annabi for his statement at this meeting. The Russian delegation fully shares the report's assessments and conclusions.

In preparing for today's meeting on East Timor, we experienced mixed feelings. On the one hand, the positive results of UNTAET activity to normalize life in the territory have been obvious. On the other hand, we have recently received a number of alarming reports, the culmination of which was the news of the death of a New Zealand peacekeeper serving in the military component of UNTAET. The circumstances which have come to light regarding the tragedy attest to unceasing armed attacks by the opponents of the independence of East Timor. We associate ourselves with the demands of other States that decisive measures be taken to prevent a repetition of such incidents.

We are also alarmed by the conclusions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees regarding the situation in the refugee camps and the activity of members of the pro-integration militias in West Timor. We hope that the Indonesian authorities on site will take steps to right this situation.

At the same time, we also note the unquestioned major successes of UNTAET activities and the consistent manner in which it has been resolving problems. I refer to efforts in such varied fields as the establishment of an East Timorese judicial system, the study of the prospects for providing for the security of East Timor and even the training and equipping of farmers engaged in cultivating coffee beans. Also noteworthy are the positive examples of the training of national personnel in various areas of State and economic activity in East Timor. A source of satisfaction is the policy of the UNTAET leadership on expanding the involvement of the East Timorese themselves in resolving the problems facing the population. That in particular has been reflected in the establishment of a representative National Council and in the involvement of the East Timorese in the leadership of various areas of UNTAET activity. We see a great personal role in these successes by the head of UNTAET, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Everything that I have just said inspires us with the hope that the transition of East Timor to independence will be, while laborious, a successful undertaking.

Mr. Fowler (Canada): Canada also expresses thanks to the Secretary-General for his report and to Mr. Annabi for his briefing this morning.

We join other members of the Council in expressing our condolences to the family of Private Manning and to the people of New Zealand for their loss. Until fairly recently Canadian soldiers had the privilege of serving with the New Zealand battalion under their command in what remains one of the more exposed sectors of East Timor. Our soldiers also send their condolences to Private Manning's family and to his colleagues who remain in East Timor. This senseless murder reinforces the need for Indonesia to take immediate action to disarm and stop the activities

of the militias in West Timor and improve the security situation in the area as it has repeatedly committed itself to do.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has felt compelled to suspend activities in three of the largest refugee camps in West Timor because of increasing violence and intimidation. The continuing aggression directed at its staff is truly deplorable. Militia leaders must be held to their commitment not to interfere with the safe return of refugees, and we look to the Government of Indonesia to play a constructive role in this regard. The recent violence directed at UNTAET and humanitarian personnel by pro-integrationist militias remains disturbing and suggests that Indonesia must take urgent and more effective steps to control the activities of these militias. Effective action by the Indonesian Government would reinforce the cooperation it has already demonstrated in normalizing relations with East Timor, as evidenced by the establishment of the Joint Border Committee and the memorandum of understanding signed with UNTAET in April on border security.

Canada is equally concerned about other issues which are dissuading the refugees from returning. For example, it is likely that few refugees will return until issues such as civil service pensions, relocation options and infrastructure deficiencies in East Timor are forthrightly addressed.

Canada wishes to express its appreciation for UNTAET's efforts to involve the East Timorese fully in the work of administering the territory and for working, through the creation of the National Council, to build capacity for security and self-governance.

We are pleased to learn of, and enthusiastically support, the Transitional Administration's efforts in the promotion of human rights and democratic development, state-building, gender equality and the establishment of an integrated security sector, and also its efforts to involve the East Timorese themselves — as I mentioned a moment ago — in every aspect of the territory's administration. Such efforts are fundamental to the territory's successful entry into the international arena. We are confident that UNTAET, under the able leadership of Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello, will guide the territory to independence with wisdom and perseverance, and we look forward to welcoming East Timor into the community of nations.

In closing, allow me to express my Government's deep admiration for the continuing massive and selfless commitment of the Government and forces of Australia to the vital job of maintaining security and helping East Timor to achieve a sustainable peace and effective development in the years to come.

Mr. Mohammad Kamal (Malaysia): First and foremost, my delegation would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his briefing this morning and the Secretary-General for his latest lucid and comprehensive report on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), pursuant to Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999.

The dynamics of this new, emerging independent nation are positive, although the situation is not without problems. Let me first welcome the historic announcement and swearing-in of East Timor's eight-member transitional Cabinet, four of whom are East Timorese, at UNTAET's headquarters on 15 July. The first meeting of the new Cabinet of the transitional government, on 17 July, is particularly welcomed by my delegation.

The holding of that meeting represents a very important step in the right direction towards an independent East Timor. It represents the first time in the territory's history that East Timorese leaders have participated as equal partners in the governing of their own country. Nevertheless, Malaysia recognizes that while a new state structure has emerged in East Timor, reconciliation, tolerance and cooperation will continue to remain the basis for a lasting peace in the future new nation.

There have been other positive developments in the last month, which my delegation applauds. These include the decision by the Government of Indonesia to send a 17-member team from the Attorney-General's office to Dili on 20 July to question witnesses and collect any material evidence concerning five criminal cases presented by the Indonesian authorities. The visit was the outcome of the first working-level meeting between UNTAET's legal and political units and its Indonesian counterparts in Jakarta last month.

In addition, we hope that the graduation on 11 July of the first batch of 50 graduates of East Timor's Police Training College in Dili as police officers will enable the territory to fully undertake the responsibility of maintaining law and order.

At the same time, the coming into operation of the East Timor Revenue Service on 1 July is indeed timely. Ninety per cent of the businesses liable for the new impositions have been contracted by UNTAET. We welcome also the decision of UNTAET's land and property unit to start a pilot mapping exercise on 26 July to determine land boundaries in Dili, which hopefully will be the beginning of a systematic registration of land parcels in open areas. Nevertheless we are mindful that the project is not to determine legal ownership or right of occupancy.

Meanwhile, we note with satisfaction the establishment of a Joint Border Committee for the management of all cross-border matters, agreement on which was reached during two days of talks between the Indonesian authorities and UNTAET in Surabaya on 5 July. In this connection, we urge the two parties to continue to explore ways and means to overcome the problem of a land corridor to link East Timor with the isolated Oecussi enclave, on the northern coast of West Timor.

We are confident that further progress on other remaining issues — such as scholarships for East Timorese studying at Indonesian universities, pensions for East Timorese who had worked in the Indonesian administration, Indonesian assets and archives, and the culture of East Timor — will be achieved at the upcoming September meeting.

My delegation's optimism is tempered, however, by the deterioration of the security situation in some refugee camps in West Timor. We are particularly dismayed at the fact that small groups of thugs are able to carry out with impunity a campaign of intimidation in the camps. We deeply regret that registration of East Timorese refugees in the main refugee camps in Kupang and in the border districts of West Timor has been cancelled as a result of serious security conditions.

Equally, the repeated abuse and threats by the militias against the staff of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are a cause for serious concern to my delegation. Malaysia believes that UNHCR must be allowed to play its part in resolving the refugee problems in West Timor with the full cooperation of the Indonesian authorities.

We are also deeply saddened by the death of a New Zealand peacekeeper, Private William Manning, on 24 July, who was killed in a gun battle with armed militias in East Timor. We extend our deepest and sincerest condolences to the family of Private Manning. This tragic incident serves to remind the international community of the remaining daunting challenges it faces in meeting its commitment to the people of East Timor.

We welcome the actions taken by Indonesia to date and look forward to further efforts by that country to address this issue.

Although the process of achieving independence and nation-building is currently under way in East Timor under UNTAET, the local population is still living in difficult conditions. Unemployment runs about 80 per cent, and there is little indication that things will improve anytime soon.

Foreign investment, considered vital to reviving the shattered economy, is only trickling in. Apart from a handful of service companies setting up shop in Dili in the hope of profiting from the United Nations short-term presence there, East Timor's private sector barely exists.

Equally disturbing is the fact that land disputes are proving to be one of the greatest stumbling blocks to the economic development needed to sustain East Timor as an independent country.

Without clear ownership laws, and with many Government records destroyed, businesses, quite understandably, are reluctant to invest in long-term projects. While we fully support the proposal of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to set up an independent tribunal to arbitrate claims, the hundreds of cases that are waiting could take years to be completed. Unless UNTAET is able to resolve the problem quickly, the new nation risks being left without a functioning economy when the Transitional Administration comes to an end.

We recognize that East Timor will need substantial funding from outside the country for the foreseeable future, if it is going to be able to rebuild successfully and to lay the foundations for a society in which the basic needs of all its citizens are met. While donors are prepared to be generous in the short term,

they will be justifiably hesitant to commit themselves to assisting East Timor for an indefinite period of time.

In conclusion, my delegation is pleased to hear from Mr. Annabi just now that the leaders of East Timor attended the recent thirty-third annual ministerial meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), in Bangkok. This positive development augurs well for the future relations between independent East Timor and the ASEAN countries — and, of course, for peace, stability and prosperity in the South-East Asian region.

Finally, my delegation also wishes to pay tribute to the efforts of UNTAET, under the leadership of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello. These efforts have contributed to the transformation of East Timor over the past 11 months.

Ms. Soderberg (United States of America): Let me use this opportunity to praise your leadership, Madam President, and that of your team. As Ambassador Holbrooke told your Foreign Minister just two weeks ago, it has been a very busy and productive month — and for this we take our hats off to you.

The Council authorized you on Tuesday to express its heartfelt condolences to the family of Private Leonard William Manning, who was killed earlier this week in the service of peace, the international community and the people of East Timor. Private Manning's untimely death reminds us of the risks of peacekeeping and of the courage of the men and women who make up the United Nations forces. I note that New Zealand Permanent Representative Michael Powles is in the Chamber today, and I take this opportunity to convey to his Government and the people of New Zealand our sympathy and our respect. I am sure we all hope that UNTAET, New Zealand and the Government of Indonesia can work together to apprehend and bring to justice Private Manning's killers.

As we heard from Assistant Secretary-General Annabi this morning, the United Nations is doing an important job in East Timor, and UNTAET's great progress is aptly described in the Secretary-General's report. As we heard from Sergio Vieira de Mello last month, UNTAET is increasingly "Timorizing" its administration, working with the East Timorese leadership to develop a timetable to draft a constitution, set elections and declare independence. The Secretary-General's report contains important benchmarks for UNTAET as it moves into the next phase of its work. It underscores that East Timor will require attention and assistance from the international community even after independence. And despite instability in the border area, the situation in the eastern part of East Timor is calm and the United Nations is correctly proceeding with a logical and gradual diminution of UNTAET's troop strength — which will result in a significant reduction by early next year, without sacrificing overall security.

Despite UNTAET's great progress, problems remain along the border, fuelled by the intolerable situation in West Timor. The Government of Indonesia is abrogating its responsibility to maintain law and order in West Timor, especially in and around the camps. Their failure to do so threatens the work of the United Nations and the impressive progress made to date. The Council for months has expressed concern about the situation in the refugee camps. Yet the situation continues to deteriorate, and UNHCR is threatened by thugs and blocked from doing its vital work.

For months the Council has called on the Government of Indonesia to end cross-border incursions, to disarm and disband the militia and to prosecute those responsible for violence. But the situation does not change. The Indonesian Government and the security forces do not act, and violence and instability continue in West Timor. The death of Private Manning is the tragic result of these failures.

There have been many useful discussions between President Wahid, Xanana Gusmão, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello. These discussions are described in detail in the Secretary-General's report. Important agreements have been reached on cooperation, and there have been visits of openness, such as those by West Timor Governor Piet Tallo and Baucau Bishop Basilio Nascimento. Indeed, the sharing of information occurring now between Indonesian and UNTAET human rights investigators demonstrates what can be accomplished with the right intentions. However, what is needed urgently are tangible improvements on the ground, especially in West Timor.

Indonesia must do more: it must live up to its written commitments; it must live up to its international agreements; and it must pave the way for a future stable and friendly relationship between two

sovereign neighbours: the great, multi-ethnic Republic of Indonesia and the new, fledgling State of Timor Lorosa'e.

I understand that the delegation of the United Kingdom has circulated a draft presidential statement. We support the draft and stand ready to finalize it as soon as possible. We do believe, however, that additional language should be added to more accurately reflect the serious problems experienced by UNHCR in the West Timor camps, in particular the failure of the Government of Indonesia to fulfil its responsibilities to maintain law and order. We will come to the meeting this afternoon with suggestions along those lines.

I would like to end my statement by touching on an entirely separate issue, unrelated to East Timor. The United States Government, as well as other Governments and the Secretary-General, has expressed concern to the Government of Indonesia over the continuing violence in the Moluccas, which has resulted in the death of thousands and a humanitarian crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of Indonesian citizens. Muslims are killing Christians, Christians are killing Muslims. We have heard many alarming reports over the last few months. For instance, just this morning, we heard a report that members of the Laskar Jihad are driving through the city of Ambon, instructing all Christians to evacuate by 31 July or face execution. Similarly, in Poso there are reports of actions by Christians against Muslims. Unfortunately, we cannot confirm these reports since the Government of Indonesia does not allow us access, but given the history of Rwanda and of Srebrenica, the international community must speak out against this violence.

It is the responsibility of the Government of Indonesia to act to end this crisis. The United States calls on the Government of Indonesia to take steps to restore law and order and basic services to all affected communities, Christian and Muslim alike. The United States further calls on the Government of Indonesia to allow international humanitarian aid workers immediate safe access to the region to provide urgently needed assistance to its people. Jakarta must take action immediately.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States for her kind words addressed to me and my delegation.

Mr. Doutriaux (France): Allow me, too, to congratulate you, Madam President, regarding this month of July. While I realize that it has not yet ended — the weekend and Monday remain — we have already had a very active and productive month, for which the French delegation thanks you. I would also like to thank Mr. Annabi for his very comprehensive report to the Council on the situation in East Timor.

Allow me to begin my observations by expressing the great sympathy of the French authorities for the New Zealand Government and authorities and for the people of New Zealand. I would like to ask Ambassador Powles to convey all our sympathy and condolences to the family of the late peacekeeper Private Manning. This tragic event shows clearly that there remain serious security problems in East Timor, problems that we must fully address. In his briefing, Mr. Annabi indicated that an investigation is under way in order to fully determine who was responsible for this tragic assassination. Of course the Security Council would like to learn as soon as possible all that this investigation uncovers and would like to be fully informed about the steps that the Indonesian authorities are taking in this regard.

Going beyond this tragic event, as the Secretary-General's report clearly shows, there have been some positive developments in East Timor. I would like to comment on the current prospects for its transition to independence. The success of the peacekeeping operation in East Timor rests on the mainly exemplary behaviour of the people and its leadership, who immediately called for the calming of tensions. The relative solidarity within the transitional National Council and the remarkable understanding between Xanana Gusmão and Sergio Vieira de Mello have created a positive synergy with the United Nations, which increasingly has to take administrative decisions. Therefore, the recent establishment of a sort of coalition government composed of Timorese and United Nations representatives is a very positive development. It seems logical that a people who spoke *massively 11 months ago in favour of independence* should have the will to take their fate into their own hands quite soon.

As Mr. Vieira de Mello rightly said at the donors' conference in Tokyo, the impact on the country's economy of an international presence of such significance, in terms both of resources and duration, should also be taken into account.

We feel that the timetable for drawing up a constitution and preparing for elections, which can certainly be forecast to take place towards the end of August 2001, could be shortened to some extent. United Nations assistance could then take the form of traditional development aid. It seems to us that it is in the best interests of East Timor and the United Nations to achieve an exemplary transition towards a normal system of government and the exercise of sovereignty.

As previous speakers have done, I would like to briefly mention the situation in West Timor. My authorities, like those of previous speakers, are rather tired of having to note that less progress than we would like has been made in the situation in the refugee camps in West Timor. We continue to appeal to the Indonesian authorities. We support the efforts of the United Nations, and of the UNHCR in particular, to find a solution promptly to the problems of the refugee camps in West Timor. If Mr. Annabi could suggest possible action, we would be very grateful.

In conclusion, my delegation will closely examine the draft presidential statement presented by the United Kingdom delegation, with a view to its adoption as soon as possible.

Mr. Scheffers (Netherlands): First of all, I thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing and the Secretary-General for his very comprehensive report.

I realize that many, if not all, issues related to the transitional process in East Timor and the United Nations mission there have already been touched upon. That is why I would like to highlight three aspects only: the security situation, the question of the East Timorese armed forces and the question of independence.

Before doing so, given the mixed picture presented this morning of, on the one hand, good news, and, on the other, frustration and tragedy, my delegation believes it is useful to stress once more how much the Netherlands commends the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for its untiring efforts in preparing East Timor to become a free, prosperous and independent country.

Unfortunately, the security situation still gives rise for concern. Indeed, the recent incident that caused the death of Private Manning and continuing cross-border attacks demonstrate that it is premature to contend that a situation of stability has been reached. I would like to seize this opportunity to join previo speakers in expressing, on behalf of my Governme our sympathies and condolences to the Government New Zealand and to the loved ones of Priva Manning. We call upon the Indonesian authorities renew their efforts in cooperating with UNTAET and disarm and disband the militias operating in the bord areas.

Coming back to the security situation in general believe that the Council should consider the question troop reductions very carefully, taking into account aspects of the situation on the ground. We therefo feel that decisions on the number of troops deploy should be taken only on the basis of sound milita advice, preferably by hearing the UNTAET For Commander who is in an excellent position enlighten us on this subject. In this context, I echo t wish of, in particular, the representative of Argentir for further clarification, hoping that the overall securi situation will not be compromised by the intend reductions.

Another aspect of the security situation is t question of the future East Timorese armed forces my delegation has stated before, their establishme may contribute to strengthening the security in E Timor and thus provide a horizon to the internation presence there. We therefore very much welcome t statement made by Mr. Annabi that members of Falin will be at the core of the future self-defence forces. V take due note of his statement that internation assistance is called for. In this respect, my delegati looks forward to the results of the study bei conducted by King's College, London.

Prospective independence for East Timor is matter of great importance. We are all aware of t problems on the way to independence, especially terms of capacity-building and econom reconstruction. Here the United Nations bears a hea and grave responsibility. Much as we would like to s East Timor's prospective independence realized, a the current United Nations operation successful completed, I reiterate that the United Nations shou make sure that the process of handing ov responsibilities to the East Timorese is careful calibrated to correspond to the actual emergence local capacity.

We spoke on earlier occasions in terms benchmarks, which are referred to, I have noted wi

pleasure, in paragraph 68 of the Secretary-General's report. We also welcome the establishment of an interim Cabinet and of the newly formed National Council, steps in the right direction.

On the subject of elections, it would seem logical that the election schedule for next year will be elections for a constituent assembly which will debate and adopt the constitution; therefore, it seems that independence should not immediately follow the elections.

In conclusion, on a separate and unrelated issue, I very much share the concern expressed by the representative of the United States about the situation in the Moluccas and the alarming reports, so far not confirmed. We call upon the Government of Indonesia to restore law and order and allow humanitarian aid workers to do their work in a terrible situation in the Moluccas.

Mr. Ayari (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): I wish to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2000/738). My thanks go also to Mr. Hédi Annabi for his introductory remarks.

I join other delegations in offering our condolences to the people of New Zealand and to the family of the peacekeeper who was killed while carrying out his noble task. It is sad to see the international community paying a price in human lives lost in the cause of peace. Criminal acts and attacks on personnel of the United Nations and of humanitarian agencies must be condemned and their perpetrators brought to justice.

We express our satisfaction at the report of the Secretary-General on developments in the situation in East Timor, which shows that the period of intense crisis is over, and that the focus has shifted to reconstruction and renewal. In our view, this means that progress has been made in the overall situation, but it also makes clear how much remains to be done to consolidate what has been achieved on the path towards peace and reconstruction.

We are particularly encouraged by progress in the process of normalizing relations between Indonesia and East Timor. The agreements concluded in that respect — including notably the agreement on border crossing arrangements to make it easier for people to move about and to engage in exchanges, and the establishment of a Joint Border Committee — are important signs with positive implications, especially for the way in which the refugee issue will be addressed.

At the same time, we are concerned by the difficult refugee situation; according to the report of the Secretary-General, between 85,000 and 120,000 refugees remain in camps. We call upon the parties to help the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) carry out its vital mission.

Two days ago, the Council discussed the issue of children and armed conflict. Everything said in that debate holds true for the children of East Timor. The fate of those children is of great concern; we must help them, as a matter of primary importance.

We share the view stated by the Secretary-General in his report, that the achievement of the important mission entrusted to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) will depend to a degree on the relationship between UNTAET and the Timorese. In that connection, we hail the consultations undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with the Timorese and the excellent coordination between the Transitional Administration on the one hand and the Government of Indonesia and the agencies in the field on the other.

Finally, we consider that economic factors and the promotion of the economy must be among our highest priorities; the international community, donor countries and financial institutions should therefore help East Timor to consolidate its achievements and to address the humanitarian and economic needs of the post-conflict period.

Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine): I join previous speakers in thanking the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the situation in East Timor and on the activities of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Our thanks go also to Mr. Hédi Annabi for his introduction of the report and for his comments this morning.

It was with deep sadness that we learned that on 24 July an UNTAET patrol investigating a cross-border incursion in the Cova Lima district was attacked with automatic fire and that a New Zealand citizen, Private Leonard William Manning, was killed in that incident. We express our profound condolences to the family and

to the Government of New Zealand. We strongly urge the Indonesian authorities and UNTAET officials to investigate the incident thoroughly and to bring to justice all those responsible for this crime without delay.

Although I agree with the evaluation of many previous speakers, that UNTAET has managed to halt political violence and that the security situation in East Timor is generally stable, I note that there are still challenges before us. More than once, it has been pointed out in this Chamber that the Council should be given an opportunity to consider the whole military and security situation in East Timor and to receive a specific briefing on that issue. We believe it is essential that the Council receive the most detailed and accurate information on the security situation on the ground.

The security situation is of obvious relevance to the return of refugees. Mr. Annabi mentioned that the registration of refugees has been indefinitely postponed owing to attacks on workers attached to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by militia members earlier this month. We condemn those attacks, and we believe that the UNHCR should be given all the support it needs to attain its objectives.

We strongly support the role of UNTAES in guiding East Timor through its transition to independence. The establishment on 14 July of the National Council and the reorganization of UNTAET to include direct participation by East Timorese were of vital importance. The "Timorization" of the Transitional Administration is of fundamental interest to the local communities at this stage, and is conducive to long-term success in terms of independence for East Timor.

We are pleased to see that more and more East Timorese people are involved in the reconstruction process. We were encouraged to hear from Mr. Annabi that a number of projects to provide employment for them are being successfully carried out by the UNTAET trust fund and by United Nations agencies.

We could continue to highlight significant advances in the difficult task of promoting reconciliation and reconstruction in East Timor. At the same time, it is clear to us that there are still serious and difficult obstacles. It falls to the Security Council and to the entire international community to continue to play an active and leading role in implementing what was agreed upon in resolution 1272 (1999).

In conclusion, we pay tribute to UNTAET and to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, for their efforts.

Mr. Keita (Mali) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Madam President, for convening this briefing on East Timor. My thanks go also to Mr. Hédi Annabi for his detailed introduction of the report of the Secretary-General. At the same time, I convey the condolences of the delegation of Mali to the family of the New Zealand peacekeeper who was killed, as well as to the people of New Zealand and to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). We hope that the investigation of this criminal act will be successful and that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

My delegation wishes yet again to commend UNTAET for its administration work in East Timor. That work has been marked by constant progress, as described in the 26 July report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/738). But a number of matters continue to give rise to concern, and we have a few brief comments to make in that regard.

My delegation welcomed the creation on 14 July of the National Council to replace the National Consultative Council. Thanks to its broader base, it will allow greater participation by the Timorese in the political process. The setting up a few days ago of a Cabinet with Timorese members will ensure improved decision-making.

During our consideration of the question of East Timor last month, we appealed to UNTAET to ensure that the participation of the Timorese people in the political process would come about quickly, and in a calm and transparent manner. We are therefore concerned to see an increase in political intolerance in the form of harassment and intimidation. We renew that appeal, while supporting the steps taken by UNTAET to bring about the rule of law and expressing our satisfaction at the continuing normalization of relations with Indonesia. The creation of a Joint Border Committee with responsibility for managing all cross-border matters will give a new impetus to the search for solutions to important issues such as the return of refugees and the payment of pensions.

We are pleased by the quality of the humanitarian assistance mentioned in the Secretary-General's report. However, the number of refugees still in West Timor is considerable. We appeal to the Indonesian authorities to act with greater rigour to halt the actions of the militias. Militia attacks against humanitarian workers and associated personnel cannot be tolerated.

Turning to economics, I regard the Tokyo and Lisbon conferences as important milestones in reviving the economic sector in East Timor. We therefore urge donor countries to continue to provide assistance to UNTAET, working together with the financial institutions and various specialized United Nations agencies, as it carries out integrated development projects. The support of the private sector and the promotion of investment should be a priority objective with a view to bringing about a considerable reduction in unemployment. In this regard, my delegation would like to thank the Japanese, Australian and American cooperation agencies and all the countries that have contributed to the Trust Fund for their considerable support for the reconstruction of East Timor.

In conclusion, I urge the international community to continue to support UNTAET so that the progress achieved over the past nine months can be sustained.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Jamaica.

I wish to join previous speakers in expressing my delegation's appreciation to Mr. Hedi Annabi for his introductory remarks and to the Secretary-General for his report, which provides an excellent overview of the present situation in East Timor, covering political developments, the status of refugees, governance, public administration, security and humanitarian affairs, as well as relations between East Timor and Indonesia.

When the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and head of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, briefed the Council last month, my delegation paid tribute to him and to the men and women of UNTAET for their dedicated and dynamic service, which had seen the transformation of East Timor since the start of the mission.

We noted the positive developments, which included the increasing involvement of the East Timorese in creating and building institutions of governance, the cooperation which had developed between UNTAET and the Government of Indonesia, and the commitments received from the international community in support of East Timor's reconstruction and rehabilitation process. We welcome the further developments described in the report of the Secretary-General, including the formation of the interim Cabinet and the graduation of the first batch of East Timorese police. At the same time, we expressed our deep concern about the status of refugees and the attacks on staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and on United Nations peacekeepers by suspected militias.

It is therefore with deep regret that my delegation must express its sincere condolences to the Government and people of New Zealand and to the family of Private Leonard William Manning, who was killed on 24 July while on duty in East Timor. The perpetrators must speedily be brought to justice.

The death of the young peacekeeper, as well as the continued attacks on UNHCR staff, which have forced the closure of the UNHCR office in the border town of Betun and the withdrawal of its international staff there, highlight the continued security problems on the border between East and West Timor, occasioned by the operation of armed militia groups. The Indonesian authorities must act quickly and firmly in cooperation with UNTAET to deal with these incidents, which clearly endanger the security presence, as well as the lives of the 85,000 refugees who remain in camps in West Timor. Moreover, UNHCR must have free and unhindered access to these camps to enable refugee registration in order to determine those who wish to be resettled or returned to East Timor. The prospect of a possible withdrawal of UNHCR would have devastating effects on this process.

The reported harassment and intimidation of religious and ethnic minorities is also disturbing. There are reports of the intimidation of groups and parties outside the National Council of Timorese Resistance. We believe that the inclusion of all groups and parties is fundamental to the process of democracy in East Timor. The gains which have been made so far must be consolidated, and not destroyed. Tolerance of various groups on different sides of the political, religious and ethnic divide must be one of the foundations for an independent East Timor.

UNTAET's role in promoting peaceful coexistence and stability is evidenced in the recently launched programme on the future of democracy in East Timor. We welcome this programme, and would like to hear more about its achievements and strategies in future briefings. My delegation strongly supports this venture, as we believe it can promote a culture of tolerance and peace.

My delegation also wishes to acknowledge the role of UNTAET, in collaboration with the humanitarian agencies, in ensuring country-wide provision of humanitarian assistance. This is demonstrated in the establishment of a coordination centre to support the work of non-governmental organizations. The development of the capacity of local development organizations is an important facet of this centre's work. In addition, the handing over of the centre to the East Timorese is very positive, as we believe that local groups and organizations are at the core of local community development initiatives and that in the long run this will contribute to sustainability.

The Secretary-General's report notes that there has been some improvement in the economic situation, particularly the moderate expansion of business activity and the strong recovery in the agricultural sector due to the good coffee crop and domestic demand. The projects being implemented by the United States Agency for International Development, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency and the Australian Agency for International Development, as well as those funded by the United Nations Trust Fund, have made a significant contribution to creating jobs and improving the overall unemployment situation. We recognize, however, that these programmes will come to an end, leading to a possible reduction in employment. This could have negative effects on the situation in East Timor, where the unemployment rate still far exceeds 50 per cent. It is therefore vital for an enabling environment to be created to encourage private sector investment.

Jamaica fully recognizes the daunting tasks which remain. The process under way in East Timor has to be examined from a long-term perspective, each development being seen as an incremental step forward in the creation of an independent territory.

My delegation supports the benchmarks set out by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative as a means of providing the East Timorese with a sound basis for independence. These include arrangements for the security of an independent East Timor; the establishment of a credible system of justice, an efficient system of law and order and an effective public service; and the eventual adoption of a constitution and the holding of democratic elections. UNTAET has, in less than one year, demonstrated measurable successes in difficult circumstances, and we again salute the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the men and women of UNTAET and the people of East Timor, and assure them of our continued solidarity and support.

I now resume my function as President of the Council.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of New Zealand. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Powles (New Zealand): I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this meeting. I am instructed by my Government to speak today because of its concern over the situation which led to the killing on Monday this week of a New Zealand soldier deployed as a United Nations peacekeeper in East Timor.

As the Council is aware from an earlier briefing by the Secretariat, Private Manning was a member of a small reconnaissance patrol sent to follow up reports by local East Timorese of a militia presence near the border with West Timor. At 10.30 a.m. East Timor time on 24 July, the patrol was engaged by a group of suspected militia lying in wait in well-defended positions, and during the action, Private Manning was killed. When his body was recovered some hours later, it was found to have been mutilated.

The death of a United Nations peacekeeper on active service is an all too common event. I think of the casualties suffered by troop-contributors to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) only recently. What singles out Private Manning's death, perhaps, is the circumstances surrounding it. Only last month in this Chamber, we spoke of our concern at recent militia incursions and attacks on United Nations peacekeepers, including the wounding of an Australian peacekeeper. While acknowledging the positive actions taken by Indonesia up to that point, we called in June for renewed efforts by the Indonesian Government to rein in the militias in West Timor.

My Government is grateful for the messages of sympathy from the Security Council expressed in the statement to the press by you, Madam President, on behalf of the Council, on Tuesday. It has been passed on to Private Manning's family. The condolence messages this morning, including from Assistant Secretary-General Annabi on behalf of the Secretary-General, are also very much appreciated and similarly will be passed to Private Manning's family. Now we demand that those responsible for his death be brought to justice. We welcome the undertakings given to this effect by the Indonesian Government and trust that there will be the fullest cooperation among the parties concerned to achieve this outcome.

The dangerous security environment along East Timor's border with Indonesia has been allowed to persist for far too long. We again urge the Indonesian Government to redouble its efforts to put an end to all militia activity in West Timor. This will require effective action to disarm and disband the militia groups. These extremists must be dealt with firmly.

Furthermore, the continued large-scale presence of refugees in West Timor provides cover for the militias' existence and activities. We are deeply concerned that repatriation of refugees to East Timor has virtually halted. They continue to face threats and intimidation. The Indonesian authorities must take effective steps to remove obstacles to the repatriation or resettlement of the refugees in accordance with their wishes. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees must be given unimpeded access to these people, and they and other humanitarian workers must be given adequate protection. It is essential that law and order and security in and around the refugee camps be established as soon as possible. This is clearly the responsibility of the Indonesian Government and its armed forces and police.

New Zealand condemns those who threaten East Timor's stability and the United Nations-sponsored process of peace and reconciliation for which Private Manning made the ultimate sacrifice. The Secretary-General's valuable report makes clear the substantial progress achieved by UNTAET over the past six months in the face of enormous challenges. The increased direct participation of East Timorese people in the governance of the territory of the period under review is especially welcomed. But there must be no further violence against those who have been deployed in East Timor from so many nations around the world in the service of peace and under the mandate of this Council.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Portugal. I invite her to take a seat at the Council table and to make her statement.

Ms. Paiva (Portugal): At the outset, allow me to thank the Secretary-General for his excellent report on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his comprehensive briefing.

We welcome the measures that were taken with regard to reinforcing the capacity-building of the East Timorese, namely through their participation in the transitional Government. We also welcome and commend the efforts carried out by the UNTAET through the able leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, regarding the rehabilitation of the infrastructures and the setting up of mechanisms and systems in the fields of education, health and judicial administration.

Despite all the efforts that were made by UNTAET to find a solution to the refugee problem and to secure the border, we must recognize that the dialogue with Indonesian authorities has not yet produced the expected results. It is with deep regret that I express the serious concern of the Portuguese Government over the killing of a New Zealand peacekeeper by elements that had crossed the border from West Timor to East Timor. Portugal deeply regrets the situation and has already conveyed through appropriate channels its condolences and solidarity to the Government of New Zealand and the family of Private Leonard William Manning.

These regrettable events overshadow the East Timorese transition process towards independence. Despite all efforts and public pronouncements of the Indonesian Government, there still prevails a lack of control over the activities carried out by some militia elements along the border. Therefore, Portugal would like to call on the Indonesian authorities, in particular its military forces, to cooperate more closely with UNTAET to completely disarm and disband the militias in order to end cross-border incursions from West Timor and to bring to justice those militia members responsible for crimes.

Portugal regrets the difficulties experienced in, and the slow pace of, the return of East Timorese refugees remaining in West Timor. We also wish to express our great concern at the continued militia presence in the refugee camps and their intimidation of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Portuguese authorities welcomed the attention of the Security Council to the East Timorese transition towards independence and hopes it will continue to keep the issue under close consideration. Portugal remains firmly committed to work together with Indonesia and the United Nations for the implementation of the New York agreements.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Australia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Stuart (Australia): I commend your decision to open this meeting to participation by non-members of the Council at short notice. Developments in recent days have again highlighted the continuing challenges faced by the people of East Timor and by the international community in the transition process. These challenges deserve the focus and concern of all United Nations Member States and warrant opening up the Council to broader participation.

The Australian Government was deeply saddened by the death of the New Zealand peacekeeper on 24 July at the hands of suspected militia members, near the East Timor border with West Timor. We call on the Indonesian Government to help bring to justice those responsible for Private Manning's death.

We condemn the violent behaviour of those who continue to seek to destabilize the process of peace and reconciliation in East Timor. This tragic event serves to remind the international community of the remaining challenges it faces in meeting its commitment to the people of East Timor.

Australia calls upon all parties to stiffen their resolve to stamp out militia activity on both sides of the border.

We are conscious of the efforts already made at the most senior levels of the Indonesian Government to deal with this problem, but ultimately only that Government can take the steps which are needed to prevent such incidents.

We urge Indonesia to redouble its efforts to bring militia activity in West Timor to an end, including by bringing to justice those militia members who have committed crimes.

Another issue of serious concern to the Australian Government is the situation in the refugee camps in West Timor. Ongoing militia activity in and around the camps continues to affect the refugees, who are the most vulnerable members of East Timorese society. Until these people feel safe enough to return to East Timor or to make other free choices about their future, the process of reconciliation will remain fragile.

We again urge the Indonesian authorities to take all the necessary measures to bring an end to militia activity in West Timor by disarming and disbanding the militia, removing them from the refugee camps, and enhancing cooperation with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) to ensure an end to cross-border militia incursions.

We also call on the Government of Indonesia to do everything possible to accelerate the resettlement and repatriation of refugees, including separating militias from refugees, ensuring that international agencies have unimpeded access to refugees to determine their preferences and to supervise repatriation; to work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to respond to its serious concerns about its capacity to continue to carry out its responsibilities in West Timor; and, together with the international community, to plan for the permanent resettlement of those who do not wish to return.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kobayashi (Japan): Madam President, I would like to thank you for providing us with this opportunity to present Japan's views on the situation in East Timor in the light of the recent events, particularly the tragic death of Private Leonard William Manning on 24 July. The Government and people of Japan extend their profound condolences to the family of Private Manning, who gave his life while serving the cause of peace, and also express their sincere sympathy to the Government and people of New Zealand.

Japan's views on the situation in East Timor, as presented in the open meeting last month, remain

unchanged. Today I would like to focus my comments on recent developments and issues which were not elaborated on in our previous statement.

First of all, Japan is gravely concerned at the recent resurgence of militia activities in the border areas of East Timor. As we have repeatedly stressed, the maintenance of security is a prerequisite for successful nation-building, and every effort should be made to this end. We recognize that the measures taken by the Indonesian Government have resulted in a decrease in incidents caused by the militias in the border areas since April, but recent events have shown that these efforts need to be continued and furthered.

Such efforts should be twofold. First, the border areas must be secured to prevent cross-border incursions. In this respect, we call on the military forces of Indonesia and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) to cooperate more closely in order to fully implement the Memorandum of Understanding on tactical coordination signed on 11 April. Secondly, the root cause of the problem must be addressed by disarming and disbanding the militias in West Timor. Difficult and complex as this task may be, only the Government of Indonesia is in a position to take effective measures to this end, and we call on it to make further efforts in this respect.

The fate of the remaining East Timorese refugees in West Timor is also a matter of concern to Japan. Efforts by the Indonesian authorities and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have enabled more than 167,000 refugees to return, but the Secretary-General has estimated that 85,000 to 120,000 refugees still remain in West Timor. The lack of tangible progress on this issue in recent months makes it clear that greater efforts are required by the parties concerned. We are also reminded of the fact that UNHCR's resources are not limitless. Nevertheless Japan believes that international support is essential in resolving this difficult problem, and it supports the involvement and efforts of UNHCR. We call upon the Indonesian authorities to make further efforts in collaborating with UNHCR, which is the only effective formula for resolving this refugee problem.

The recent tragic incident and the lack of progress in certain aspects of the situation underscore the need for continued and determined efforts on the part of all the relevant parties and players. In this respect, I would like to reiterate once again Japan's commitment to cooperate to the best of its ability with UNTAET and the people of East Timor in their efforts to build a peaceful and democratic nation.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Indonesia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia): My delegation has noted the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General contained in document S/2000/738. Having participated in the meeting of the Council on 27 June 2000 concerning the situation in East Timor, we will confine our intervention to the developments that have taken place over the last month.

As affirmed in that report, the Government of Indonesia has established a satisfactory level of cooperation with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) since the inception of its mandate by the Security Council. Significant developments reflective of Indonesia's sincere cooperation and support for the development of East Timor have included, among others, the visit of President Abdurrahman Wahid to Dili on 29 February 2000 and the signing of a joint communiqué on issues that need to be resolved in order to establish friendly and mutually beneficial relations between Indonesia and East Timor. The two sides are committed to taking measures that include the promotion of trade and communication; the provision of legal cooperation; the establishment of representative offices in Jakarta, Dili and Kupang; and the continued access by East Timorese to Indonesian educational institutions.

As a result of intensive discussions that took place in Jakarta on legal matters on 6 April 2000, the Government of Indonesia and UNTAET concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in legal, judicial and human rights matters. In the context of implementing the understanding, the Indonesian authorities have continued to extend every form of assistance to bringing the perpetrators of alleged human rights violations to justice. In this regard, a team from the Indonesian Attorney-General's Office arrived in Dili on 19 July for a 10-day mission, the purpose of which is to collect evidence and testimony in connection with the five priority criminal cases to be presented by Indonesia. During this visit the Indonesian team met with officials from the UNTAET

Serious Crimes Unit, the Political Office and the Human Rights Office.

As is acknowledged in paragraph 52 of the report, the security situation has been "generally stable". In line with the Memorandum of Understanding regarding tactical coordination in the border area to enhance cooperation, signed between the Commander of East Nusa Tengarra and UNTAET's Force Commander on 11 April 2000, the Indonesian Armed Forces, in fulfilling their responsibility for security on their side of the border, deployed additional battalions on the border to assure security and stability. These renewed efforts have resulted in an even quieter situation.

Indonesia's cooperation is further evidenced by the number of agreements reached with UNTAET during three rounds of negotiations. Following the third round of negotiations in Surabaya early this month, the two sides agreed *inter alia* to establish a joint border committee, which will be entrusted with the task of establishing a border regime, including the demarcation of the borders between East Nusa Tenggara and East Timor, and the delineation of the maritime boundary between Indonesia and East Timor. This committee, to be comprised of officials from the Indonesian Government and representatives of UNTAET, is expected to work in the near future to initially establish a regime for cross-border traffic and visits of Indonesians and East Timorese. In addition, the Government of Indonesia and UNTAET are currently working on arrangements regarding transit between the Oecussi enclave and the rest of East Timor. The question of pensions of former East Timorese employees living in East Timor is also being addressed by the two sides.

My delegation deems it pertinent to reiterate that there are no easy solutions to the multifaceted problem of the refugees in East Nusa Tenggara. From the outset, the Indonesian Government has spared no effort in extending its cooperation to UNTAET, the UNHCR and other relevant international humanitarian organizations to expedite the repatriation of refugees. Over the past few months 167,000 refugees have been reintegrated into East Timorese society. Paragraph 13 of the report depicts this process as "generally smooth".

Despite these endeavours, the repatriation of the remaining refugees in East Nusa Tenggara would be greatly facilitated by adequate guarantees being given to them concerning basic necessities, including food, shelter and security in East Timor. A successful resolution of this problem requires the much needed assistance of the international community. At the same time, the responsibility for the refugees is a collective one, and hence the United Nations has an important role to play in addressing the refugees' concerns.

My delegation regrets the decision of UNHCR to temporarily close its office in Betun, due to security concerns, while conducting the registration exercise of refugees. We have noted, however, that the UNHCR will continue to carry out its activities from Atambua. To address these concerns, as well as to expedite the repatriation of refugees, a meeting of various East Timorese factions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Force Commander and the Commander of Udayana Military Command was held in Denpasar, Bali, on 26-27 July. We are hopeful that this meeting will lead to a productive outcome. During this meeting the concerned parties expressed their initial agreement on expediting the return of the refugees and hoped that this plan could be implemented in the near future.

In this connection, while we underscore the imperative need to promote reconciliation among the East Timorese of all political persuasions, my delegation is pleased to inform the Council that such an undertaking recently began, on the margins of the said Bali meeting. We believe that this constitutes an encouraging development in the context of establishing a solid foundation upon which a harmonious East Timorese society can be built.

It has been the consistent policy of Indonesia to strongly condemn all acts of violence, including the tragic incident that took place in Suai, East Timor, on 24 July. The killing of a United Nations peacekeeper from New Zealand is deeply deplorable to my delegation. On this solemn occasion my delegation joins other speakers in extending our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of sorrow. In spite of the untiring efforts of the Indonesian Government to provide security, it is impossible under such uncertain and tenuous circumstances to control the actions of each and every individual in the refugee camps. The incident occurred after strenuous efforts had been made by the Government of Indonesia to prevent such acts of violence from occurring. Such acts have been depicted by UNTAET as isolated incidents.

The Indonesian Government has, however, swiftly responded to this tragic incident by extending its full cooperation to the ongoing investigation. Its exemplary cooperation is reflected by Indonesia's invitation to the Government of New Zealand to jointly investigate this incident involving its national. Even though this is the first combat-related death of a United Nations peacekeeper in East Timor, my delegation earnestly believes that this loss of life is one too many and hence warrants our urgent attention.

It may be recalled that, in order to avoid the occurrence of unfortunate incidents, the Indonesian authorities earlier proposed to UNTAET that there was a need to maintain joint patrols and joint border posts and to exchange military liaison officers. But, unfortunately, these proposals were rejected by UNTAET on the basis that the parties concerned had to be responsible for providing security on their respective sides of the border.

Finally, as the Secretary-General states, the best assurance for a secure future for East Timor

> "lies in healthy relations with the countries in the region, particularly Indonesia, its closest neighbour". (*S/2000/738, para. 67*)

Indeed, the attainment of this noble objective will facilitate the inauguration of a new era of amity and friendship, to the mutual benefit of the two peoples. Towards this end, Indonesia will continue to extend its cooperation and support. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and other concerned parties for their efforts in bringing this complex and challenging task to a successful conclusion.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Annabi to respond to the comments made and the questions raised.

Mr. Annabi: Since it is late, I will try to be brief. There were essentially two questions, one on the situation of the Falintil and what could be done to improve it, and one on what might be done regarding the refugees in West Timor.

As regards the Falintil, some members are serving as security officers in UNTAET; some others are serving in liaison functions, liaising between UNTAET and the local population. They were, of course, given the option of applying for participation in the new East Timorese police force, but chose not to do so for reasons that are well understood. A significant number have gone on leave, some on extended leave, returning to their homes and families. As a result of all this, the number of Falintil in the cantonment in Aileu has fallen from over a thousand people to under 500. UNTAET has been considering various options for the reintegration into civilian life of those members of Falintil who will not join the proposed defence or security force, either because they do not wish to do so or because they would not qualify. We feel that the recommendations to be prepared by the ongoing King's College study on the possible establishment of a security or defence force in East Timor will enable UNTAET to move forward on some of these options. In the meantime, of course, those Falintil members who are still in the cantonment in Aileu have received food supplies, and efforts have been made to improve their accommodation and their general living conditions, in addition to the grant that was provided from the consolidated East Timor budget, as I mentioned in my statement.

As regards what can be done to improve the situation of the refugees in West Timor and what measures may be taken, I think they are quite well known; some have been mentioned by members of the Council. To summarize, what is required is unhindered access to the refugees; guarantees for the security of the refugees and the humanitarian workers; separation from the refugees of former soldiers, police officers and civil servants; and the conduct of a credible registration exercise which would enable UNHCR to confirm the exact numbers of those present in the camps, as well as to ascertain their wishes. A commitment on the part of the Government of Indonesia to pay pensions to former civil servants, including beyond independence, would also help to remove an obstacle to return of the refugees. Finally, of course, the Government of Indonesia should be encouraged, as I mentioned in my statement, to ensure that the activities of the militias in the camps are brought to an end.

The Council may wish to address these issues in the proposed presidential statement that it will be considering in the coming days, but Council members may also wish individually to engage the Government of Indonesia to see how these steps could be taken and what could be done to ensure that they materialize.

The President: I thank Mr. Annabi for the clarifications he has provided.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4180/Corr.1

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4180th meeting

Friday, 28 July 2000, 11.45 am
New York

Corrigendum

Page 11, second column, sixth paragraph

For United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) *read* United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)

00-58804 (E)

United Nations S/PV.4181

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4181st meeting

Monday, 31 July 2000, 10.40 a.m.

New York

President	Miss Durrant	(Jamaica)
Members	Argentina	Mr. Mársico
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahsan
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Alabrune
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Tunisia	Mr. Achouri
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Mr. Stoffer

Agenda

The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2000/643)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-58407 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2000/643)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea, document S/2000/643.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/729, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following documents: S/2000/601, letter dated 19 June 2000 from Algeria; S/2000/612 and S/2000/726, letters dated 20 June and 21 July 2000, respectively, from Eritrea; and S/2000/627 and S/2000/704, letters dated 26 June and 18 July 2000, respectively, from Ethiopia.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/2000/729) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1312 (2000).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4182

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4182nd meeting

Thursday, 3 August 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Hasmy	(Malaysia)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Martinsen
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahsan
	Canada	Mr. Duval
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Minton

Agenda

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2000/738).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-58965 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of August, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Miss M. Patricia Durrant, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, for her service as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2000. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Durrant for the great diplomatic skill with which she conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2000/738)

The President: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Mission in East Timor, document S/2000/738.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its previous resolutions and the statements of its President on the situation in East Timor. It welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 26 July 2000 (S/2000/738) on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). It takes note with warm appreciation of the progress made by UNTAET and pays tribute to the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Council also welcomes the significant progress made in building healthy relations between East Timor and Indonesia. The Council acknowledges in this regard the cooperation shown by the Government of Indonesia, UNTAET and the people of East Timor.

"The Security Council strongly supports the steps taken by UNTAET to strengthen the involvement and direct participation of the East Timorese people in the administration of their territory, in particular the establishment on 14 July 2000 of the National Council and the reorganization of UNTAET, with a view to building capacity in the territory in the run-up to independence. The Council invites the Secretary-General to report at an early date, on the basis of close consultations with the East Timorese, on the process for adopting a constitution and holding democratic elections.

"The Security Council notes that the National Council of Timorese Resistance is advocating the creation of a national security force. In this regard, it welcomes work being done on East Timor's future defence and security needs and their practical and financial implications. It urges the East Timorese people to conduct a broad discussion on these issues. The Council welcomes the humanitarian relief given by UNTAET to the cantoned troops of the Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor and encourages further assistance in this regard.

"The Security Council condemns the murder on 24 July 2000 of a New Zealand soldier serving with UNTAET and expresses its sympathy to the Government and people of New Zealand and to the family of the murdered peacekeeper. The Council is determined to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel in East Timor. In this regard, it requests the Secretary-General to inform the Council as soon as possible on the outcome of his investigation into the incident. It welcomes the establishment on 31 July 2000 of a joint investigation between UNTAET and the Government of Indonesia and welcomes also the cooperation of the Government of Indonesia to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"The Security Council expresses its profound concern at the continuing presence of large numbers of refugees from East Timor in camps in West Timor, at the continuing presence of militia in the camps and at their intimidation of

staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It expresses particular concern that this intimidation reached such a level that UNHCR were forced to postpone indefinitely their important effort to register refugees and determine whether they wished to return to East Timor or to be resettled, a task that should be completed as soon as possible given the impending rainy season. The Council calls for a more determined involvement in this problem by the Government of Indonesia, including implementation of their memorandum of understanding with UNHCR of 14 October 1999 and of a recent security agreement concluded between local authorities and UNHCR. The Council calls on the Government of Indonesia to take effective steps to restore law and order, to establish conditions of security for refugees and international humanitarian personnel, to allow free access for such personnel to the camps, to separate the former military personnel, police and civil servants from the refugees and to arrest those militia extremists who are attempting to sabotage the resettlement process.

"The Security Council acknowledges that the Government of Indonesia has approached these challenges with an attitude of cooperation, manifested, *inter alia*, by the signing of such important agreements with UNTAET as their memorandum of understanding of 6 April 2000 on legal, judicial and human rights matters, and their memorandum of understanding of 11 April 2000 on Tactical Coordination and the establishment on 5 July 2000 of a Joint Border Commission. The Council regrets, however, that serious problems persist and looks forward to these agreements being translated into concrete progress on the ground. It also calls on the Government of Indonesia to cooperate more closely with UNTAET in the field to end cross-border incursions from West Timor, to disarm and disband the militias and to bring to justice those militia members guilty of crimes.

"The Security Council takes note of the Secretary-General's intention to reduce the size of the UNTAET military component in the eastern sector of East Timor to a battalion size force of 500 by the end of January 2001 in light of the situation on the ground.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it closely informed of the situation in East Timor, including through a military assessment of the security situation and its implications for the structure of the military component of UNTAET. It also requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to it in line with the requirements set out in its resolution 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999. It requests the Secretary-General to present to it, in his next regular report, detailed plans on the transition to independence for East Timor, which should be drawn up in close consultation with the East Timorese people.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2000/26.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4183

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 August 2000

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 4183rd meeting of the Security Council

Held in private in the Security Council Chamber at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 3 August 2000, at 10.40 a.m.

At its 4183rd meeting, held in private on 3 August 2000, the Security Council considered the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

His Excellency Mr. Léonard She Okitundu, Minister for Human Rights and Special Envoy of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was invited, at his request, to participate in the discussion in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The Security Council heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

The members of the Council and the distinguished Minister for Human Rights and Special Envoy of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had a constructive discussion.

Mr. Annabi responded to comments.

00-58977 (E) 030800

United Nations S/PV.4184

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4184th meeting

Friday, 4 August 2000, 12.55 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Hasmy	(Malaysia)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mársico
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Alabrune
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Yatsyukl
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/455)

Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/751)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-59152 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.55 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/455)

Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/751)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them documents S/2000/455 and 751, which contain, respectively, the fourth and fifth reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/764, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the following documents: S/2000/727, letter dated 24 July 2000 from Sierra Leone; and S/2000/756, letter dated 2 August 2000 from the Secretary-General.

On behalf of the Council, I should like to express to the bereaved families and to the Governments and people of Nigeria, India and Jordan profound condolences in connection with the deaths of nine peacekeepers from their countries, who gave their lives in the cause of peace while serving with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. The international community is deeply saddened by this great loss.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/2000/764) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1313 (2000).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

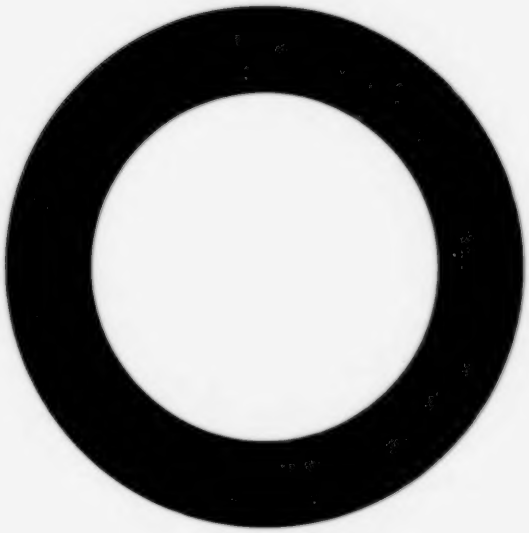
The Council will remain seized of the matter.

Tribute to Ambassador Robert R. Fowler of Canada

The President: Before adjourning the meeting, I should like, on behalf of the Council, to pay tribute to Ambassador Robert R. Fowler, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, for the remarkable contribution he has made to the work of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs.

From the outset, as representative of Canada on the Council, Ambassador Fowler made a difference to the work of the Security Council by bringing new insight and dynamism to the Council's tasks. His many accomplishments in this regard will long be remembered. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing to Ambassador Fowler best wishes as he leaves the United Nations to take on important new challenges on behalf of his country.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.



United Nations S/PV.4185

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4185th meeting

Friday, 11 August 2000, 12.25 pm
New York

President	Mr. Hasmy	(Malaysia)
Members	Argentina	Mr. Martinsen
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Duval
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Alabrune
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Herasymenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Mr. Minton

Agenda

Children and armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1261 (1999) on children and armed conflict (S/2000/712).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-60379 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Children and armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1261 (1999) on children and armed conflict (S/2000/712)

The President: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2000/787, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1314 (2000).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4186

Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4186th meeting

Monday, 14 August 2000, 10.15 a.m.
New York

President	Mr. Hasmy	(Malaysia)
Members	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Duval
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Kaxuxwena
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Grainger
	United States of America	Mr. Holbrooke

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fifth report of the Secretary-General [illegible] United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000[illegible])

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

00-60547 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/751)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, [illegible] (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, document S/2000/751.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/789, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2000/786, letter dated 9 August 2000 from Sierra Leone.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/2000/789) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, [illegible], France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, [illegible]herlands, Russian Federation, [illegible]raine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1315 (2000).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.